



Elizabeth Edwards arrives at the 'Stand Up To Cancer' television event at Sony Studios in Culver City, Calif., on Friday, Sept. 10, 2010.
(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

Elizabeth Edwards says goodbye

Elizabeth Edwards, the embattled wife of former Sen. John Edwards, has posted what many are interpreting as a goodbye message to her Facebook page. The 61-year-old Edwards -- who separated from her husband in the wake of revelations of his infidelity -- has been battling breast cancer since 2004. It's been reported recently that the cancer had spread to her liver.

According to a statement sent out today by the Edwards family, her doctors have advised that "further treatment of

her cancer would be unproductive." A source close to the Edwards family told CBS bluntly, "she is dying" and would probably pass in the coming weeks, if not days.

Writing on her Facebook page that "the days of our lives, for all of us, are numbered," Edwards expressed gratitude for the love and support she's received during her years in the public eye.

"You all know that I have been sustained throughout my life by three saving graces -- my family, my friends, and a faith in the

power of resilience and hope," she wrote. "These graces have carried me through difficult times and they have brought more joy to the good times than I ever could have imagined... It isn't possible to put into words the love and gratitude I feel to everyone who has and continues to support and inspire me every day. To you I simply say: you know."

NBC's Jeff Rosen reports that Edwards is "comfortable" at home in North Carolina surrounded by friends and family, including her estranged husband. □

Mohamud led 2 lives

By JEFF BARNARD
NIGEL DUARA,

Associated Press Jeff

CORVALLIS, Ore. -- The plot described by the FBI was horrific: a 19-year-old Somali-born Muslim with a grudge against the West, ready to kill and maim thousands at a busy Portland Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

But while the FBI describes Mohamed Osman Mohamud as a would-be terrorist, there were few hints of that hidden life to Mohamud's friends, who knew him as "Mo," a quiet, suburban teen who liked to drink gin and play video games.

The teen who allegedly thought he was going to kill thousands of people the day after Thanksgiving in the name of Islamic radicalism is the same one who, three days earlier, wrote and read a Kwanzaa poem about unity with two Christian college students. Court documents and Mohamud's friends describe the slender Somali-American as juggling contradictory lives -- that of an immigrant struggling to fit in and a Muslim who had become radicalized and was bent on holy war.

In a cell phone video obtained and aired by Portland station KPTV last week, Mohamud rants against the West.

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CHANNEL "8"



Steve Harris carries a sign against gay marriage outside of the courthouse before a hearing in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, in San Francisco. The federal appeals court in San Francisco plans to hear two hours of arguments Monday about the voter-approved ban known as Proposition 8. A trial court judge overturned the measure as a violation of gay Californians' civil rights in August.

Cold weather blasts through the South



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A Canadian high pressure system pushed a blast of winter weather through the Southeast on Monday, leaving people shivering as far south as Florida. Strawberry growers there tried to salvage delicate blooms, schools in at least eight North Carolina counties closed because of snow, and cold weather shelters opened in Pascagoula, Miss. Though temperatures

were below normal for the first week of December, the South does get frigid weather from time to time, said Christopher Hedge, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He said the coldest temperatures would likely be Monday and Tuesday nights before a midweek warm-up. Such cold is so unusual that Florida officials issued a statement reminding people to dress warmly and bring

their pets inside. Broward County on the southeast coast and Lee County in the southwest opened cold-weather shelters. Temperatures in the Sunshine State were expected to dip into the upper 30s, but with wind chill, the real feel will be lower, even in normally balmy Fort Lauderdale. The National Weather Service issued a hard freeze warning has been issued from Monday night through Tuesday morning for southeast Alabama, southwest and south central Georgia and the Florida Panhandle. Monday's cold weather forced cancellation of schools in eight North Carolina counties, where 6 inches of snow fell on Mount Mitchell and 1 to 3 inches was reported in Asheville. Frigid weather was forecast statewide and a snow

advisory was issued for the mountains. Snow also piled up in the mountains of far western Maryland, where The Wisp, the state's only ski resort, opened over the weekend. In Tennessee, Newfound Gap in the Smokies was under eight inches of snow on Monday and Mt. LeConte (leh-KONT') had 13 inches on the ground. In Terra Alta, W.Va., which had about 300 inches of snow last winter, travelers appeared unaffected by the 8 inches that had fallen by late afternoon Monday. They bought gas and stopped at the convenience store near a Dairy Queen that owner Cecil Royce was repainting. "It's not enough to stop anyone. We don't even stop in Terra Alta when there's 4 feet of now," said Royce, 65. "When we can't get out in the car and we can't get out

in the four-wheel drive, we grab the snowmobiles and take off." In Florida, farmers were on alert for below-freezing weather that could harm delicate winter crops. Ted Campbell, the executive director of the Florida Strawberry Growers Association, said the light frost expected in the mornings this week isn't catastrophic for the nation's biggest region for winter strawberries, but farmers will need to be careful. "The cold snap is slowing the maturing fruit," said Campbell. "It's not exactly ideal, but it's not a disaster, either." He added that in some areas where there is a hard freeze temperatures below freezing for several hours farmers may have turning on sprinklers to create a layer of ice to insulate the berries. □



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This recent, undated photo taken from a cell phone video obtained and aired by Portland, Ore., television station KPTV, shows 19-year-old Somali-born Mohamed Osman Mohamud. Mohamud has pleaded not guilty to attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction Nov. 26, during the lighting of Portland's Christmas tree.

(AP Photo)

MOHAMUD

Continued from Front Page

"You know what the whole West thing is? They want to insult our religion," he says in the video, which the station says was recorded May 22 in an OSU dorm room. "They want to take our lands. They want to rape our women." KPTV won't reveal how it obtained the video, which lasts less than a minute. It is not known who recorded the video, clips of which were provided to KPTV, or what led up to Mohamud's words. His attorney, the police and the FBI have refused to comment about it. The words don't make sense to friends, who recognized Mohamud in the video. Shelby Turner, a former OSU classmate, said she remembers "Mo Mo" as a funny if awkward student. "I remember him always saying 'hi' and giving me nicknames like 'Shelbs,'" Turner told the AP. □

Televised gay marriage hearing attracts audience

SAN FRANCISCO – The legal fight over California's same-sex marriage ban went before a federal appeals court Monday in a hearing that reached a nationwide TV audience anxious for a final decision on whether the measure violates the U.S. Constitution.

The hearing before a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also focused on whether supporters of voter-approved Proposition 8 have legal standing to challenge a lower court ruling that the ban was unconstitutional.

The judges did not issue an immediate ruling.

C-SPAN piped the nearly three-hour hearing into law schools, courthouses, community centers and elsewhere across the country, giving the public outside the courtroom its first and possibly last direct look at the debate raging in the federal case.

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked a lower court from broadcasting the full trial earlier this year, and the high court has a blanket ban on televising its own proceedings. That means the issue would be blacked out if it reaches the U.S. Supreme Court, as many legal experts and lawyers on both sides believe it will.

Matt Walker, 60, of Los Angeles watched the hearing with about 20 other people at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center in West Hollywood, saying the lives of many of his friends will be affected by the final decision. He found the hearing to be fascinating.

"Nobody from either side was getting a pass. The judges asked very probing question," he said.

Only a few people gathered at the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center to watch the hearing.

"I feel like it's our civil rights issue of today," said Jubilee Menzies, a 33-year-old from San Francisco, who recently passed the state bar exam.

Roberto Isaac Ordenana, a spokesman for the center, was pleased the hearing was broadcast so "more people have access to the reality of countless lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their communities."

Viewers watched attorney Charles Cooper, who represents sponsors of the ban, argue that the state can treat same-sex couples differently when it comes to marriage without running afoul of the Constitution because "sexual relationships between men and women naturally produce children."

"Society has no particular interest in a platonic relationship between a man and a woman no matter how close it might be, or emotional relationships between other people as well, but when the relationship becomes a sexual one, society has a considerable interest in that," Cooper told the judges. "It's vital interests are actually threatened by the possibility of an unintentional and unwanted pregnancy."

Judge Stephen Reinhardt replied: "That sounds like a good argument for prohibiting divorce. But how does it relate to



Gus Thompson, left, and Eric Hufford of San Diego, hold signs in support of gay marriage as a truck with an anti-gay marriage message drives past them before a hearing in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, in San Francisco. The federal appeals court in San Francisco plans to hear two hours of arguments Monday about the voter-approved ban known as Proposition 8. A trial court judge overturned the measure as a violation of gay Californians' civil rights in August.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

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having two males and two females marry each other and raise children as they can in California and form a family unit where children have a happy, healthy home?"

The issue of legal standing surfaced after outgoing California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown both refused to challenge the ruling that overturned the ban.

Cooper contended the coalition of religious and conservative groups that sponsored Proposition 8 should be allowed to appeal because of the moves by Brown and Schwarzenegger. However, his claim met skepticism by Judge N. Randy Smith.

"There is no question the attorney general has a duty to defend all the causes the state or any state official is a party in," Smith said. "Did you ever seek an injunction or an order or anything suggesting the attorney general should appeal and appeal?"

The panel appeared dubious about whether the ban's supporters were qualified to appeal but also seemed worried about allowing the governor and attorney general to effectively kill Proposition 8 by refusing to defend it.

"If the state does not defend it, it's just tossing in the towel," Judge Reinhardt said. "The governor is not allowed to veto this measure, but he can in effect veto it." Opponents of Proposition 8 contend it violates the due process and equal protection rights of gays and lesbians under the U.S. Constitution by denying them the right to marry the person of their choice and by singling them out for disparate treatment without a legitimate rationale. □



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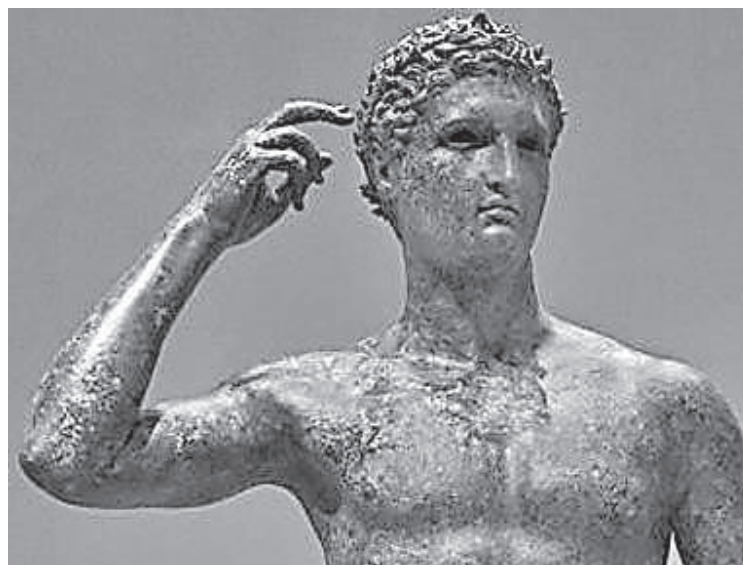
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Getty Museum's statue transfer ends Italy dispute



LOS ANGELES – The love goddess Aphrodite is going home to Italy after the new year, stronger and more stable than she has been in 2,500 years.

The statue, being returned to Sicily as part of Italy's decade-old campaign to retrieve antiquities it says were illegally brought to

California, will be the last of 40 artifacts the J. Paul Getty Museum agreed to turn over.

Sebastiano Missineo, the minister of culture from Sicily, visited the Getty Villa in Malibu on Monday and viewed the statue.

The statue will be on display at the Getty Villa for one

more week, acting Getty director David Bomford said at a tea for Missineo Monday.

The Getty has built a seismic wave isolator for Aphrodite that will protect her in the earthquake-prone Sicilian region, he said.

For the trip, the statue will be dismantled and shipped with the isolator to Aidone, Sicily.

"We are organizing the opening day for the last days of March," Missineo said. "We are working on a project for a new site for this statue at the museum. That site will be ready in a few years. This is a very good occasion not just for Aidone, but Sicily too."

Missineo also viewed the marble Agrigento Youth, a statue loaned to the Getty in exchange for an earthquake base.

Both sides say the discord caused during Italy's antiquities hunt has spawned a new era of cooperation and reciprocity between the Getty and Sicily.

Several collaborative efforts, including object conservation, earthquake protection of collections, exhibitions, scholarly research and conferences, are planned.

The Getty has always denied knowingly buying illegally obtained objects, and the deal that former Getty Director Michael Brand signed with Italy in 2007 includes no admission of guilt.

Even the 6-year-old case against former Getty antiquities curator Marion True went away in October when a judge in Rome ruled the statute of limitations in her case had run out.

She had been accused of knowingly acquiring looted art from Italy.

Only American art dealer Robert Hecht, 91, remains on trial. There is a nine year statute of limitations on his alleged crimes, but it expires next summer.

Dozens of Roman, Greek and Etruscan artifacts have been returned to Italy from museums and private collections as a result of the campaign.

Besides Aphrodite, one of the most prestigious targets in Italy's search was a 2,500-year-old vase by Greek artist Euphronius returned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Italy's Culture Ministry also said 10 artifacts were returned in 2008 by New York philanthropist Shelby White from her private collection. □



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3 admitting to tormenting CA teen get 30 years

STOCKTON, Calif. – Three adults who admitted to beating, burning and holding a teenager captive inside a Central California home for more than a year will each spend at least 30 years in prison.

Michael Schumacher, 36, his wife Kelly Lau, 32, and the teen's then-legal guardian Caren Ramirez, 45, learned their fates Monday during their sentencing in San Joaquin County Superior Court after each pleaded guilty in October to more than a dozen felonies committed against Kyle Ramirez.

Sydney Perry, the boy's aunt, stared down and admonished the tormentors directly during her emotional statement to Judge Terrence Van Oss.

"My family waited two years for this day to face you sadistic, demented monsters who tortured and abused Kyle every day. Every day," Perry said. "And where you're going, you're going to be with monsters just like you."

Perry was especially harsh

towards the victim's former guardian, who brought the then-16-year-old to live in the Tracy home of Schumacher and Lau as the abuse began in late 2007.

"You're an evil and dispicable woman," she told Caren Ramirez. "You're trash and you should've been taken out a long time ago. Today is your day to be taken out."

Van Oss then handed down the lengthy sentences: 34 years for Caren Ramirez, 33 years for Lau and 30 years for Schumacher. The terms were the maximum allowed under their plea deals.

"There really is no explanation for this.

I just can't imagine what was going through these folks' minds," Van Oss said. "All the words in the world are not going to do any good."

As part of their agreement, prosecutors withdrew a charge of torture, which could have led to life in prison.

A fourth defendant, Anthony Waiters, 31, the next-door neighbor of Schumacher and

Lau, was convicted at trial last month. He faces life in prison when he's sentenced Jan. 18.

Kyle Ramirez testified during Waiters' trial that he fled the home after hearing Schumacher and Waiters saying they were going to "chop me up and throw me in the delta." He recalled that he escaped by running through a backyard, jumping on a trampoline, hopping a retaining wall and stumbling into the nearby health club.

A recently released video shows the frightened, emaciated teen covered in soot and bruises entering the club hunched and clutching a chain strapped to his ankle, stunning employees who called 911.

He would later tell police that he had been beaten, burned, cut, chained to a table, denied food and forced to sleep in a fireplace. Four children of Schumacher and Lau, a former Girl Scout leader, also lived in their two-story home but were not mistreated, authorities said.

Kyle Ramirez, who's now



18 and has undergone a significant growth spurt since being starved in the Tracy home, was surrounded by family and friends in the courtroom Monday. He chose not to speak during the sentencing.

The defendants also did not speak. At one point, Lau stared at Kyle Ramirez, began crying and bowed her head while the other two defendants sat grim. Their attorneys also declined to comment.

Prosecutor Angela Hayes said Monday that she's "dumbfounded," and still can't explain two years later

why the abuse occurred.

"I just know there are four people in the world who should have never met," Hayes said. "Somehow or another they were on some odd level mental level that they were able to do this."

Kyle Ramirez's aunt, Sydney Perry, said in court that her nephew is resilient.

"He survived. He is loved. He is respected and he will never be hurt again by these people," Perry said. "He will overcome, he will succeed in life and he will heal.

"And those people will rot in hell." □



ESCONDIDO, Calif. – Neighbors gasped when authorities showed them photos of the inside of the Southern California ranch-style home: Crates of grenades, mason jars of white, explosive powder and jugs of volatile chemicals that are normally the domain of suicide bombers.

Prosecutors say Serbian-born George Jakubec quietly packed the home with the largest amount of homemade explosives ever found in one location in the U.S. and was running a virtual bomb-making factory in his suburban neighborhood. How the alleged bank robber

obtained the chemicals and what he planned to do with them remain mysteries.

Now authorities face the risky task of getting rid of the explosives. The property is so dangerous and volatile that they have no choice but to burn the home to the ground this week in a highly controlled operation involving dozens of firefighters, scientists and hazardous material and pollution experts. Authorities went into the home after Jakubec was arrested, but encountered a maze of floor-to-ceiling junk and explosives that included 13 unfinished shrapnel grenades. Bomb experts pulled out about

Explosive-laden Calif. home to be destroyed

nine pounds of explosive material and detonated it, but they soon realized it was too dangerous to continue given the quantity of hazardous substances. A bomb-disposing robot was ruled out because of the obstacle of all the junk Jakubec hoarded.

That left only one option burn the home down.

San Marcos Fire Chief Todd Newman acknowledges it is no small feat: Authorities have never dealt with destroying such a large quantity of dangerous material in the middle of a populated area, bordered by a busy eight-lane freeway.

"This is a truly unknown situation," said Neal Langerman, the top scientist at the safety consulting firm, Advanced Chemical Safety in San Diego. "They've got a very good inventory of what's in there. Do I anticipate something going wrong? No. But even in a controlled burn, things occasionally go wrong."

He said the burning of the

house would provide "an amazing textbook study" for bomb technicians in the future. San Diego County authorities plan to burn the home Wednesday but need near perfect weather, with no rain, no fog, and only light winds blowing toward the east, away from the city. They have warned residents in the danger zone that they will be given less than 24 hours notice to evacuate their homes for a day, and that nearby Interstate 15, connecting the area to San Diego, will be closed.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has declared a state of emergency, and hospitals will be on standby in case there is

a rash of people getting sick, Newman said.

Some 40 experts on bombs and hazardous material from across the country and at least eight national laboratories are working on the preparations. They have analyzed wind patterns to ensure the smoke will not float over homes beyond the scores that will be evacuated. They have studied how fast the chemicals can become neutralized under heat expected to reach 1800 degrees and estimate that could happen within 30 minutes, which means most of the toxins will not even escape the burning home, Newman said. □

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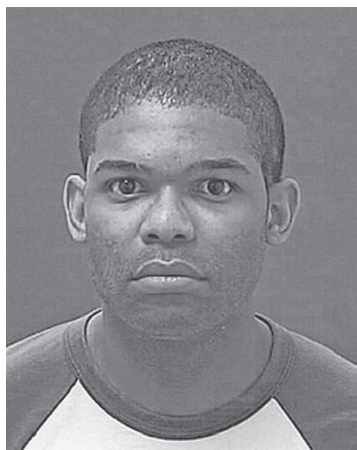
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Baltimore's drunk-and-armed police rule questioned



BALTIMORE — Off-duty police officer Gahiji A. Tshamba was enjoying a summer evening in a historic neighborhood known for its nightlife when he encountered trouble around closing time. He was carrying his department-issued, semiautomatic Glock handgun unfortunately, as it

turned out.

After he left the Red Maple nightclub around 1:30 a.m., Tshamba saw a man groping a woman and confronted him, starting a heated argument. The officer eventually drew his gun and emptied the clip, firing 13 shots 12 of which struck and killed Tyrone Brown, an unarmed Iraq war veteran. The June 5 shooting resulted in a murder charge for Tshamba.

There's nothing unusual about a Baltimore officer packing heat for a night at the bars. In fact, officers are generally required to do so. But recent shootings involving alcohol and off-duty officers have some experts decrying the department's gun policy as an outdated approach other big

cities have abandoned.

Baltimore's policy "boils down to the whole dated concept that a cop was a cop 24 hours a day. New York and many other places have become much more realistic," said Eugene O'Donnell, a former New York officer and current lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III is considering changes, such as a restriction on drinking while armed. But he's reluctant to toss out a decades-old policy that he says helps protect the public. An Associated Press review of investigative records shows that since 2005, off-duty Baltimore officers have shot people 15 times. In a dozen

cases, the officers intervened to stop crimes or defend themselves. But the three shootings that led to officers being disciplined and another instance when an off-duty officer was killed by a fellow cop involved alcohol or took place around bars.

Baltimore's policy on off-duty officers and guns is a single sentence: "Sworn members, off-duty, within the city of Baltimore, shall be suitably armed, except at such times, or under such circumstances, or when engaged in such activities as a prudent person would reasonably conclude the wearing of a firearm to be inappropriate."

It's up to officers to decide when it's inappropriate to be armed, although police officials cite obvious examples such as swimming or playing sports. But off-duty officers aren't allowed to leave their handguns in their cars they're told to lock them up at home. Any officer who stops for a beer after work, then, is expected to be armed. And that, experts say, is a problem. "You're required to carry a gun, but if you do get drunk and do something stupid, then you're held responsible," said Peter Moskos, a professor at John Jay College and former Baltimore officer.

Other big cities have ditched or modified policies requiring officers to carry guns at all times. Instead, some train officers to be good witnesses and call 911 when they see a crime during their downtime. The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommends that departments make it optional for off-duty officers to carry guns. But departments don't have to follow the association's model policy.

Researchers who've studied fatal police-on-police shootings also say departments should discourage off-duty officers from using force.

"This is something that's a national problem," said Sam Walker, a criminologist at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. "A fair number of officer-involved shootings do involve off-duty officers,

which is a major issue."

In Baltimore, one of the nation's most violent big cities, Bealefeld and others argue officers can't afford to let their guard down.

The records obtained by The AP show that since 2005, off-duty officers have fired their handguns in an attempt to stop nine armed robberies and one stabbing. In another case, an officer wounded a would-be robber before the officer was fatally shot. Another officer shot and killed a man he saw breaking into his car.

Bealefeld argues the documents don't tell the whole story of how the policy protects the public. The department does not keep records of instances in which off-duty officers draw their guns to stop a crime but don't open fire.

But Tshamba's case isn't the only questionable use of a weapon by carousing off-duty police. Former officer Patrick Dotson pleaded guilty to assault for shooting at two people after a brawl outside a bar. Officer Norman Stamp drew his gun during a strip club brawl, and an on-duty officer fatally wounded him. Stamp didn't identify himself as police until after he was shot.

Tshamba, meanwhile, had previously shot someone after a night of drinking. In 2005, the black officer said a group of white men used racial taunts and assaulted him while he was off-duty. Tshamba fired several shots, and a 17-year-old boy was wounded in the foot. A breath test found the officer had a blood-alcohol percentage of .12 well above the state's threshold for drunken driving. The department disciplined Tshamba, but the shooting was ruled justified. He wasn't charged with a crime.

Tshamba's attorneys say he wasn't drinking the night he shot Brown, and he refused a breath test afterward. He's being held without bail on a first-degree murder charge. His lawyers contend he was acting in an official capacity and feared for his life when he opened fire. □

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PALM BEACH – Recently, the fabulous fashion designer Heidi Munzenhofer-Davis brought together a world of wonder and pure imagination! Heidi's company, Creation Aimee, presented "Wonderisland"! This fashion show was held at the Westin and brought together a variety of music, dance, art, and most importantly a great audience to enjoy Heidi's wonder world of fashion. Special performances were made by DJ 101, DJ Bryan, DJ DannyVill, Singer Angela Croes, Andrew Zaandam from Time Bandits, Chayo Tromp from Honeypot and a variety of different local artists to present their works. The show was truly breath taking.

Continued ob Pages A8 & 9

Dan Taylor Morning Show 101.1fm Live Broadcast From Aruba Marriott

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PALM BEACH – On December 6 and 7, the Aruba Marriott hosts a 2-day live radio broadcast in New York on channel WCBS 101.1 FM. Radio host Dan Taylor, program director Brian Niemi and radio technician Chris Tobin are the team behind the #1 radio station in New York, WCBS 101.1 FM Dan Taylor Morning Show, 5 days a week, attracting over 4.4 million listeners each week.

This morning Marriott guests came out early to greet the radio crew and reporting out to 'the folks back home' about their vacation in Aruba. Marc Shear, repeat guest from New York and loyal listener of WCBS expressed his positive experiences with the Aruba Marriott, Aruba and its people. First time visitors



Tom and Tracy from Sufran, New York enjoyed their vacation so far celebrating Tracy's birthday in Aruba. Kevin and Lorraine from Long Island, New York were excited to meet the radio team, listening live to the broadcast and sending their greetings back home. Radio host Dan Taylor impressed the Marriott team remembering some Papiamentu words from his previous visit in 2009 mentioning "con tai bai?" and "hopi bon" live on air. On Sunday, the crew enjoyed La Vista's sumptuous Italian dinner buffet, complimenting the restaurant's grouper and pasta. On Tuesday morning December 7, the live broadcast will start at 7 am – 10 am on the beach, in front of the Marriott hotel, at Waves Beach Bar & Grill. □



Glamorous Wonderisland show focused on island hot winter fashion



Continued from Page A7
After the magnificent fashion show, the beautiful models, artists and audience joined Heidi and her crew to the Oldmolen for an after show cocktail party. Congratulation to Heidi and all that helped her present her Wonderisland master pieces! As guests were leaving, the buzz was... "Now I need to buy a fabulous new dress!" ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood in Oranjestad**.



Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.



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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

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Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

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Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Fairy Tales do come true on Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Donna Rae Schmutzler, the daughter of Betty Marie and Raymond Ralph Schmutzler of Oak Park, Illinois was married in Aruba's historic civil house last week to James David Martin Jr., the son of Corinne and James David Martin of Chicago Heights, Illinois. Donna and James have been together for more than 10 years and decided to celebrate their love for one another by exchanging rings and vows of marriage in their tropical paradise Aruba. This was a very special day for the newlyweds as after their official ceremony in Downtown Oranjestad, the couple continued to Aruba's

famous Divi Divi tree for some romantic photos, then off to the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort for an intimate blessing on the beach performed by Rev. Robert Gibson. Donna and James exchanged their hands in marriage along the water's edge just as the

sun gently set into the sea. Then they were escorted to a romantic dinner underneath the Palm Trees at the Sunset Bistro. The spectacular day was coordinated by Indira Maduro of The Aruba Fairy Tales. □
~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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At The Aruba Marriott

A Surprise Visit From Sinterklaas



PALM BEACH - On Friday December 3rd, Sinterklaas and his helpers "Zwarte Pieten" made a surprise visit at the Aruba Marriott. From 3 - 5 pm, the Aruba Marriott invited all children ages 0 - 9 years old of Marriott's associates in the Grand Ballroom to celebrate the



Dutch holiday Sinterklaas. The jolly good saint made his appearance arriving in a carriage with helpers and his white horse. All "good" kids present in the beautifully decorated ballroom with balloons received a gift from Sinterklaas and were spoiled with the traditional Sinterklaas treats "pepernoten".

The Party Animals assisted

Sinterklaas creating balloon figures, arts and crafts and face painting. The little ones enjoyed the afternoon singing Sinterklaas songs, dancing and playing with Zwarte Pieten. On December 6th Sinterklaas and the Zwarte Pieten left Aruba and will return next year to celebrate Sinterklaas Birthday with the children of Marriott associates.



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WHEN RAINDROPS ARE FALLING AND TEAR DROPS ARE CALLING.. SMILE WITH THE SUNSHINE

When feeling down and blue...
smile with the sunshine
Be you !!!

Cause we are part of it all
We can not be complete without both of them
tears and smiles for ever together
No matter how big or small
No matter how slow or fast they come..

When feeling down and blue.
Be youand.....

smile with the sunshine
She is smiling too....with...
The brilliant rays in your heart
The golden tears in your eyes
They will never part
So.....just smile....

Smile with the shunshine
In your own heart and soul

We all have goals
We all have our faith....
With or without rain....

Let go of the pain...
Of a love gone wrong...

Let go of the pain
Of a cold hard song...

Your hurt song gone in the rain
Your anger and sadness.....fading away
Your disappointments, your fear....
Another Christmas and New Year is near...
Your renewed life song will reappear...

Coming back again someday
Blessed by the radiant sunshine.
So smile with the joy within...

Ruthy" Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen
Aruba, December 2010

DECEMBER 7

By David M. Shribman

HONOLULU -- There are lessons to be learned here at Pearl Harbor. Don't put your aircraft wingtip to wingtip. Don't cluster the ships of your fleet in one harbor so closely that the group of them acquires the name Battleship Row. Don't assume that a gaggle of planes headed your way on a quiet Sunday morning is a set of your own B17s flying in from California. Do not discount an intercepted cable that reveals unusual foreign interest in an American military installation just because it is translated by a woman.

All of these are important legacies from the attack on Pearl Harbor that transformed Dec. 7 from the last day of the first week of the last month into a date that would live in infamy. Some 69 years after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the wounds here and on the American mainland are still deep, still raw. More than Antietam, more than Gettysburg, this may be, perhaps with New York's Ground Zero, the Pentagon's 9/11 memorial and Pennsylvania's Flight 93 crash site, the most moving place in the nation.

Even today, Dec. 7 is one of only five dates in American history -- the others are July 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 22 and Sept. 11 -- that require no year in casual conversation or formal writing. You might not recognize the significance of Aug. 15, but if it is put down as Aug. 15, 1945, you will immediately identify it as V-J Day. You may not remember Aug. 9, but if it is expressed as Aug. 9, 1974, you'll know it was the day Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency. And perhaps the most important date in American history (April 19) has been obscured in the American mind because -- please don't break my heart and tell me schoolchildren don't read this anymore -- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow opened his beloved poem by speaking, in the third line, of "the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five," when Paul Revere made his ride, rather than of the 19th of April, 1775, when the shots rang out at Lexington and Concord.

But you know what Dec. 7 means, and so will your grandchildren. The tragedy of Pearl Harbor began when six Japanese carriers with heavy escorts sailed 4,000 miles of open seas without being detected by the Americans. The modern mind asks: How can that be? The answer is simple: For the same reason that the French did not detect the British soldiers mounting the Plains of Abraham in 1759 before the Battle of Quebec, or the British did not detect George Washington's



forces preparing their Christmas crossing of the Delaware in 1776. The modern mind forgets: There were no satellites then.

The age of the satellite wouldn't dawn for another 16 years. For the entire sweep of history until 1957, humankind slept under only natural satellites like the moon, or planets or stars, which is why the launching of Sputnik (another signal date for you: Oct. 4) was so disquieting to Americans, and why Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev knew how unsettled he would make his ideological rivals by braying that "America sleeps under a Soviet moon." But in those 16 years -- from Pearl Harbor to Sputnik -- the world would change at a dizzying rate.

The United States would be transformed into the strongest military power and most powerful banker in the history of the globe. Soviet Russia would be transformed from a largely agrarian despotism into a mighty industrial power with nuclear weapons and rocket boosters capable of achieving Earth orbit (but not, as Richard Nixon would make clear in his blustery "Kitchen Debate" in Moscow two years later, able to produce a decent dishwasher). The Cold War would break out with crises in Greece, Korea, Vietnam, Hungary and elsewhere. A new scramble for influence would begin in the Caribbean and Africa. McCarthyism would rise in America and a re-examination of Stalinism would roil the Soviet Union.

In those 16 years, the United States would end segregation in the armed forces and begin to integrate its schools, lunch counters and public accommodations. John F. Kennedy would be transformed from an obscure officer in the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center into a national political figure. The Dodgers, pennant winners in Brooklyn when Pearl Harbor was attacked, would be Los Angeles-bound by the time Sputnik was launched. The British Empire would be

gone, Israel would be born. So, too, would many other new nations, some of whose names, like Transjordan and Ceylon, already have disappeared. Within a month of Pearl Harbor, Country Joe McDonald and Charlie Rose would be born. Within a month of Sputnik, Louis B. Mayer and Christian Dior would be dead.

The surprise attack still aches in the American memory. But it spawned a great American awakening.

So the next time you think that you are living in an era of unprecedented change, ponder how much happened in the 16 years after Pearl Harbor. Consider that programmable computers have been around for 74 years, that computer games have existed for 48 years, that Ethernet networking has been here for 37 years, that IBM first produced a home PC 29 years ago, that the Macintosh was available 26 years ago and that Windows came out 25 years ago. So perhaps the great lesson of Pearl Harbor as we approach its 70th anniversary is more than military.

Never again will we present so easy a target to potential adversaries. But now we need to revise our perspective, and consider that for all of the great change we are experiencing now, the greatest change in our history may have begun when 354 Japanese planes arced toward Hawaii, destroying 188 American aircraft and sinking or damaging 18 American warships in a great American tragedy and military defeat.

"Pearl Harbor continues to haunt its survivors, as well as their descendants," Thurston Clarke wrote in the evocative volume "Pearl Harbor Ghosts."

But as we consider what happened here, let us remember, too, how almost every ship -- though not the USS Utah, USS Arizona or USS Oklahoma -- was put back into service, and that America recovered, and then some. Remember Pearl Harbor, but remember its other lessons, as well. □

Argentina: Palestine is free and independent state

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA
Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina announced Monday that it recognizes the Palestinian territories as a free and independent state within their 1967 borders, a step it said reflects frustration at the slow progress of peace talks with Israel.

President Cristina Fernandez informed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of the decision, which follows a similar move by Brazil, Argentine Foreign Minister Hector Timerman said.

Argentina is “deeply frustrated” that the goals of the 1991 peace talks in Madrid and the Oslo Accords of 1993 still have not been reached, Timerman said. “The time has come to recognize Palestine as a free and independent state,” he said.

He stressed that Argentina also “ratifies its irrevocable position in favor of the right of Israel to be recognized by everyone and to live in peace and security within its borders.”

Argentina has a deep interest in seeing Israelis and Palestinians agree to a deep and lasting peace in the Middle East, Timerman said. “Argentina’s decision to recognize the Palestine state is based in the desire of its authorities to favor the process of negotiation aimed at ending the conflict.”

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki rejoiced at Argentina’s decision, which comes three days after Brazil’s recognition. He told The Associated Press on Monday that he expects Uruguay and Paraguay to recognize Palestinian statehood in the

next few days, followed by Bolivia and Ecuador.

“It is really symbolic but it is important because the more countries that recognize the Palestinian state, the more pressure this will put on countries that are hesitant and on the peace process. If Israel keeps refusing to recognize the Palestinian state when other countries do, this will make a difference,” Malki said.

Timerman said “it’s important to note that this Argentine recognition adds to that of more than a hundred states, and reflects a growing consensus in the international community about the status of Palestine and the general interest in achieving decisive advances in the peace process.”

The Palestinian Authority opened a diplomatic mission in Buenos Aires in 1996 and in 2008 Argentina installed a



Argentina’s President Cristina Fernandez, left, listens next to her Foreign Minister Hector Timerman during the first session of the Ibero American summit in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010.

Associated Press

representative in Ramallah, the West Bank. In November 2009, Abbas visited with Fernandez in Argentina. Malki — who had met personally with Argentina’s president to encourage

recognition — said the authority has been focusing on Latin America. “Other countries still have doubts and we are seeing how to convince them to recognize the Palestinian state,” he said. □



Pakistani soldiers stand at the site of suicide bombing in Ghalanai, the main town in Pakistani tribal area Mohmand, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010. A pair of suicide bombers disguised as policemen killed many people in an attack targeting a tribal meeting called to discuss the formation of an anti-Taliban militia, in Pakistani tribal area of Mohmand.

Associated Press

RIAZ KHAN

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Two suicide attackers wearing police uniforms and jackets packed with explosives and bullets blew themselves up at a gathering of tribesmen to discuss the formation of an anti-Taliban militia in northwest

Pakistan Monday, killing 50 people, officials said.

The meeting was being held at the main government compound in Mohmand, part of Pakistan’s militant-infested tribal region. It was the latest strike against local tribesmen who have been encouraged by the government to take up arms

Suicide bombers kill 50 in Pakistan

against the Taliban.

More than 100 people were wounded, many of them critically, said Mian Iftikhar Hussain, information minister of neighboring Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Also Monday, Pakistani intelligence officials said missiles fired from a U.S. drone killed seven people in Khushali village in North Waziristan, near the border with Afghanistan.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to the media. Both of the bombers were disguised in tribal police uniforms, said Khan. One of them was caught at the gate of the compound, but he was able to detonate his explosives, he said.

One of the wounded in the attack was 45-year-old Qalandar Khan, who came to the compound to visit an imprisoned cousin and was hit by the second explosion. “There was a deafening sound and it caused a cloud of dust and smoke and a subsequent hue and

cry,” said Khan, laying in a hospital bed in his blood-soaked clothes. “There were dozens on the ground like me, bleeding and crying. I saw body parts scattered in the compound.”

The dead and wounded included tribal elders, police, political officials and other civilians. Two of the dead were local TV journalists who were at the compound reporting, said Shakirullah Jan, president of the Mohmand press club. The Pakistani army has carried out operations in Mohmand to battle Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in the area, but it has been unable to defeat the militants.

The military has encouraged local tribesmen to form militias to oppose the militants. These groups have had varying degrees of success and have often been targeted in deadly attacks. A suicide bomber attacked a mosque in northwestern Pakistan in early November that was frequented by elders opposed to the Pakistani Taliban, killing 67 people. The attack occurred

in the town of Darra Adam Khel, a militant stronghold on the edge of the tribal region.

“We are not scared of such attacks and will keep on taking these enemies of humanity to task until they disappear from society,” said Hussain, the information minister.

The U.S. has ramped up its drone attacks in Pakistan’s lawless border region, and Monday’s were the latest of more than 100 to hit the area this year. The strikes target key Taliban and al-Qaida figures and attempt to weaken their capacity to attack American and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

American officials rarely acknowledge the missile strikes, which Pakistan officially condemns as a violation of its sovereignty and critics say amount to an assassination campaign that may violate international law. Most of the strikes have been in North Waziristan, where Islamist militants run terrorist training camps and plot attacks in Afghanistan. □



Italian boat finds remains of U.S. balloonists

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The bodies of two American balloonists and their gondola were discovered in the net of an Italian fishing boat on Monday, two months after the champions disappeared while competing in a race over the Adriatic Sea during a fierce storm.

The boat hauled in the balloon and its gondola with the bodies of the Americans still inside while fishing 11 miles north of Vieste, said Port Cmdr. Guido Limongelli in Vieste, a town on the spur of boot-shaped Italy jutting into the Adriatic sea.

He said documents found in the gondola confirmed the identities of Richard Abruzzo, 47, of Albuquerque, and Carol Rymer Davis, 65, of Denver. The two had been participating in the 54th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race when

contact was lost Sept. 29 as they flew over the Adriatic during a strong storm. They had taken off with some 20 other balloons from the English city of Bristol on Sept. 25.

Search crews looked for the veteran balloonists in vain for a week before determining that their craft had plunged toward the water at 50 mph and they likely didn't survive. Shortly after midnight Monday, the crew aboard the Sharon fishing vessel felt "something pulling the net, so we realized there was something not right in the net," the boat's captain, Domenico Castriotta, told Sky TG24 TV. "We pulled it up on the stern side and realized there was a basket, a hot-air balloon type basket coming out," Castriotta said on the dock where his boat moored with its grisly find. "There was a balloon floating



The remains of the balloon and its gondola used by Richard Abruzzo, 47, of Albuquerque, and Carol Rymer Davis, 65, of Denver, to participate in the 54th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race, are seen in Vieste, southern Italy, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, after they were found by an Italian fishing boat.

Associated Press

in the water" along with the basket as it was hoisted up. The gondola appeared to be remarkably intact despite the impact: the outer wicker frame had just a few holes punched in it, and cords, canvas flaps and ropes were still attached to the inside. A heap of torn white fabric appeared to be the balloon shell itself. The Sharon notified port officials, who sent out a patrol boat to escort the vessel back to port, Limongelli said. A coroner was performing an autopsy and officials were investigating to determine what might have caused the balloon to crash.

But radar data during what were believed to be the final moments of the flight convinced experts almost from the start that the craft had crashed into the sea. "There was a strong storm in the area" when the balloon disappeared, said Giancarlo Salvemini, commander of the port of nearby Manfredonia. "The radar data indicated that it lost about a mile of altitude in less than a minute." The disappearance of the champion balloonists cast a pall over the ballooning community, which had been gathering for the America's Challenge gas race in the United States — one of the nation's top balloon races — when the search was called off. "I'm glad at least they found them. Now it will give the family some final closure,"

said David Melton of Espanola, New Mexico, an active balloonist who flew with Abruzzo in the 1995 America's Challenge. "It's been quite hard on all of them."

The Abruzzo name in particular is synonymous with ballooning. Abruzzo was the son of famed balloonist Ben Abruzzo, who in 1981 was part of the first team to cross the Pacific Ocean by balloon, and who was killed in a small airplane crash in 1985.

The younger Abruzzo and Davis won the 2004 edition of the Gordon Bennett race and the 2003 America's Challenge gas race — one of Abruzzo's five victories in that contest. Abruzzo family members declined to comment on the discovery of the bodies. Davis' family issued a statement, thanking the fishermen who made the discovery and the authorities who are now investigating.

"This was always something that was hoped for in the back of everyone's mind since it provides an end to this drawn-out tragedy for both families. As avid members of the ballooning community, Carol and Richard would be pleased that anything that can be learned by experts from today's discovery will lead to a safer experience for all balloonists," the statement said.

Don Cameron, flight director for the 2010 Gordon Bennett race, said he wasn't sure if

the deaths would affect race rules in the future but that he expected they would be raised.

He said it would be interesting to look at the balloon material itself to determine if there were burns on it, indicating a possible fire which may have been a cause for the crash.

There also has been speculation that the craft might have been struck by lightning.

The balloon wasn't equipped with a black box-type recorder that might have provided further clues. It had a tracker and transponder, which responds to radar and was what allowed air traffic controllers to determine the balloon's rate of descent in the final moments of flight.

Cameron said that because the race had been over water, Abruzzo and Davis would have had on board gear that would have allowed them to withstand a water ditching had they had time to prepare, including survival suits.

The ANSA news agency reported the bodies were fairly well preserved because of the equipment they were wearing. Cameron said he hoped Monday's discovery could provide some solace for the families.

"It's better than just not knowing anything," Cameron said. Examining the wreckage could also help answer questions and "throw some light on the reasons why this happened," he added. □

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French court: Continental guilty in Concorde crash

ANGELA DOLAND

Associated Press

PONTOISE, France (AP) — Continental Airlines and one of its mechanics were convicted of manslaughter Monday by a French court, which ruled that debris from a Continental plane caused the crash of an Air France Concorde jet that killed 113 people a decade ago.

The panel of judges fined Continental €202,000 (\$268,000) and John Taylor, its mechanic living in the United States, €2,000 (\$2,650). Taylor also was given a 15-month suspended prison sentence. Both said they will appeal.

Continental Airlines Inc.'s lawyer, Olivier Metzner, criticized the Pontoise court outside Paris for what he called a "patriotic" decision — blaming an American company while acquitting French officials accused of ignoring design flaws in the elegant Concorde, a jet that could fly at twice the speed of sound and was the pride of European aviation.

All other defendants in the case — including three former French officials and Taylor's now-retired supervisor Stanley Ford — were acquitted.

The judges also ordered nearly €2 million (\$2.7 million) to be paid in damages to Air France, families of some victims and other civil parties in the case. Air France, which wasn't accused of any wrongdoing, will receive €1.08 million (\$1.43 million) of those damages for the negative effect the case has had on its reputation.

Continental was ordered to pay the bulk of the damages, with a fraction of the burden falling to Airbus parent company EADS.

The presiding judge confirmed investigators' long-held belief that titanium debris dropped by a Continental DC-10 onto the runway at Charles de Gaulle airport before the supersonic jet took off on July 25, 2000, was to blame. Investigators said the debris gashed the Concorde's tire, propelling bits of rubber into the fuel tanks and sparking a fire.

The plane then slammed into a nearby hotel, killing all 109 people aboard and four others on the ground. Most of the victims were Germans heading to a cruise in the Caribbean.

The crash marked the beginning of the end for the Concorde, which was a commercial dud despite its glamor, and which was retired in 2003 by its only two carriers, Air France and British Airways.

Ronald Schmid, a lawyer who has represented several families of the German victims, said he was "skeptical" about the ruling.

"It bothers me that none of those responsible for Air France were sitting in the docks," he told The Associated Press by phone from Frankfurt.

While France's aviation authority concluded the crash could not have been foreseen, judicial investigators said the Concorde's fuel tanks lacked sufficient protection from shock and said officials had known about the problem for more than 20 years.

The court ruled, however, that though French officials had missed opportunities to improve the Concorde over the years, they could "be accused of no serious misconduct."

The court said Taylor — a Danish citizen with permanent U.S. residence — should not have used titanium, a harder metal than usual, to build a piece for the DC-10 that is known as a wear strip. He was accused of improperly installing the wear strip, which fell onto the runway.

In a telephone interview from his home in Montgomery, Texas, on Monday, Taylor said, "I don't think I did the work" installing the wear strip.

He also said the case has "destroyed my life."

"I've been nothing but wronged since this started," said Taylor, who marked 20 years of employment with Continental in August. He said the case has prevented him from gaining citizenship in the United States, where he has lived since age 3.



Air France Concorde flight 4590 takes off with fire trailing from its engine on the left wing from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, in this July 25, 2000 file photo. The plane crashed shortly after take-off, killing all the 109 people aboard and four others on the ground.

Associated Press

Continental defense lawyer Metzner, who argued that a fire broke out on the Concorde even before it reached the runway debris, said the ruling "protects only the interests of France."

"This has strayed far from truth, law and justice," he said. "This has privileged purely national interests."

Continental spokesman Nick Britton also said in a statement that the airline disagrees with the "absurd finding" against it and Taylor.

"Portraying the metal strip as the cause of the accident — and Continental and one of its employees as the sole guilty parties — shows the determination of the French authorities to shift attention and blame away from Air France," he said, noting that Air France was state-run at the time.

Continental faces no other court or other government action over the Concorde crash.

Roland Rappaport, a lawyer for the family of Concorde pilot Christian Marty and a pilots union, said the verdict was "incomprehensible" and asked why blame was heaped on Continental mechanics when French officials were aware of weaknesses on the Concorde around two decades before the crash.

"This trial made clear that the

Concorde, this superb plane, suffered from severe technical insufficiencies, problems with the fuel tanks that were known since '79," he said.

The fine ordered for Continental surpassed the €175,000 (\$231,000) fine sought by a state prosecutor, who had requested 18-month suspended prison sentences for both Taylor and Ford.

The prosecution also had requested a two-year suspended sentence for Henri Perrier, former head of the Concorde program at former plane maker Aerospatiale. It argued for the acquittal of Aerospatiale engineer Jacques Herubel and Claude Frantzen,

former chief of France's civil aviation authority.

Though both Aerospatiale employees were cleared of manslaughter charges, the court ruled that European defense giant and Airbus parent company EADS, which absorbed Aerospatiale, did bear some civil responsibility, which is why the French branch of the company was ordered to pay a share of damages.

Parties including Air France and Continental compensated the families of most victims years ago, so financial claims were not the trial's focus — the main goal was to assign responsibility. □

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Tuesday, December 7, 2010



In this Nov. 22, 2010, file photo, Denver Broncos head coach Josh McDaniels talks into his headset during an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers in San Diego. Since starting out 6-0 in his debut season as a head coach, McDaniels has gone 5-15.

Associated Press

Broncos fire coach McDaniels

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP)

— The Denver Broncos have fired coach Josh McDaniels, who went 5-17 after winning his first six games last year.

There was no immediate word on who will succeed McDaniels, 34, whose hiring by team owner Pat Bowlen is now viewed as a monumental mistake. Team spokesman Patrick Smyth told The Associated Press: "We can confirm that coach Josh McDaniels has been relieved of his head coaching duties." He was working on further details. The firing came after the Broncos players had left for the day.

Earlier Monday, McDaniels said he was reticent to turn to rookie Tim Tebow even though the Broncos (3-9) had been eliminated from the playoff race Sunday with their seventh loss in eight games.

McDaniels, 34, made a series of personnel blunders, notably trading away Peyton Hillis, who has become a power running back in Cleveland, and he also was fined \$50,000 by the NFL for failing to report a subordinate who violated league rules by videotaping a San Francisco 49ers practice in London on Oct. 30. □

STUNG!



"Dandy" Don Meredith dies

This Oct. 18, 2008, handout provided by Southern Methodist University shows photos shows former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Don Meredith posing for a photo after the university retired Meredith's jersey during the halftime of the football game against Houston, in Dallas. Meredith, one of the most recognizable figures of the early Dallas Cowboys and an original member of ABC's "Monday Night Football" broadcast team, died Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010, in New Mexico. He was 72.

Page B6

League buys New Orleans franchise

New Orleans Hornets coach Monty Williams is seen during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 in San Antonio. San Antonio won 109-84.

*Associated Press
Page B2*

Stern confirms league takeover of Hornets

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — NBA Commissioner David Stern confirmed on Monday that the league is proceeding with its plan to buy the New Orleans Hornets from majority owner George Shinn and minority owner Gary Chouest.

Shinn has been trying since last spring to sell the team to Chouest, but those negotiations stalled.

“George Shinn has been an exceptional owner for New Orleans and Gary Chouest has been extraordinarily supportive as a minority owner,” Stern said. “However, in light of the uncertain economic situation in New Orleans and Louisiana, Gary has decided not to move forward with the purchase of George’s majority interest.

“In the absence of any viable purchaser seeking to own the Hornets in New Orleans, I recommended to the NBA Board of Governors that the best way to assure stability and the adequate funding of the franchise would be for the league to step in, and



New Orleans Hornets’ Chris Paul, left, and teammates sit on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 in San Antonio. San Antonio won 109-84.

Associated Press

complete the transaction and assume control.”

Stern confirmed that the league has recruited New Orleans native Jac Sperling to be the NBA’s administrator of the team until it can be sold to a more permanent owner.

Sperling is a sports attorney and the vice chairman of the NHL’s Minnesota Wild.

The Hornets will be the first NBA team owned by the league.

Stern did not say what the NBA is paying for the club but did say the franchise “has been valued in excess of \$300

million.”

The NBA says the sale still must be approved by the NBA’s Board of Governors, which will likely vote on the matter next week.

Shinn founded the Hornets in 1988 in Charlotte and moved them to New Orleans in 2002. After Hurricane

Katrina damaged much of New Orleans, the Hornets spent two season playing in Oklahoma City from 2005-07.

Stern said he has notified Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu about the NBA’s takeover, adding that the league “will continue our dialogue with them about ways to strengthen the franchise for new ownership in New Orleans.”

Sperling said he’s been assured the Hornets will have the necessary resources to “keep the team competitive and further the team’s relationship with the fans of New Orleans.”

The Hornets are 13-7 under new coach Monty Williams and new general manager Dell Demps, but after a surprising 11-1 start, they have lost six of eight games.

Hornets President Hugh Weber will remain in his current role overseeing the day-to-day operations of the team.

“Our purpose and resolve will always be to build the Hornets into a championship contender,” Weber said. □

Joseph Bramlett earns historic PGA Tour card

ANTONIO GONZALEZ

Associated Press

WINTER GARDEN, Florida — Joseph Bramlett has earned a historic PGA Tour card by passing through the final stage of qualifying school, becoming only the second golfer of black heritage on tour. The other is Tiger Woods.

Bramlett shot a 4-under 68 on the Crooked Cat Course at Orange County National on Monday to sneak inside the cutoff for a tour card next year. He finished at 11 under at the grueling, six-round final stage of qualifying school to tie for 16th. He also passed through two previous stages. The top 25 earned PGA Tour cards for 2011. The next 50 received cards on the Nationwide Tour. News of the Stanford standout qualifying spread quickly.



Joseph Bramlett smiles after the final round of the PGA Tour qualifying golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

Associated Press

Woods, who also went to Stanford, wrote on Twitter: “Congrats to Joe Bramlett for making it through Q School” and “Can’t wait to play with him next season.” □

Red Sox get 1B Gonzalez in trade with San Diego

By **BOB SALSBERG**

Associated Press

BOSTON — Adrian Gonzalez put on a Red Sox jersey for the first time and immediately said what the Fenway faithful wanted to hear.

“I’m very excited to be in Boston and ready to beat the Yanks,” he pronounced Monday.

The Red Sox completed their deal for the All-Star first baseman, acquiring the slugger from the San Diego Padres for three prospects and a player to be named. “We’re thrilled to be able to make this trade,” Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said. Boston sent minor league right-hander Casey Kelly, first baseman Anthony Rizzo and outfielder Reymond Fuentes to San Diego. “It makes them a great team. He’s a heck of a hitter. That’s a huge addition for Boston,” Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. “They just obviously improved themselves in a significant way. He’s one of the premier players in that position in the game.” Gonzalez is entering the last year of his contract in 2011 and is due \$6.3 million next year. Although the trade does not include a contract extension, Epstein said he’s “confident” a contract will be worked out.

“We’re going to try to get something so he will be here for a very long time,” said John Boggs, Gonzalez’s agent.

The absence of an announced extension could prompt calls to the commissioner’s office — maybe from the New York Yankees — for an investigation. If an extension isn’t formalized until after opening day, it wouldn’t count against the Red Sox for the 2011 luxury tax.

In five seasons with San Diego, Gonzalez has 161 homers and 501 RBIs. Including parts of two seasons with Texas, he has 168 homers and 525 RBIs. He hit .298 with 31 homers and 101 RBIs last season.

Gonzalez’s lefty swings put up big numbers despite him playing at pitcher-oriented Petco Park. “I think he’s going to be a monster in Fenway Park,” Padres general manager Jed Hoyer said at baseball’s winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Epstein, too, predicts Gonzalez will quickly take aim at the Green Monster in left field.

“We think he is going to wear the wall out,” Epstein said.

The Red Sox made a run at Gonzalez before the 2009 trading deadline and again last season, Epstein said. Gonzalez has been an All-Star the last three years and is two-time Gold Glover.

Hoyer, who previously worked for the Red Sox under Epstein, said the Padres were sure they wouldn’t have been able to sign Gonzalez after next year. □

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Spurs beat sliding Hornets to keep NBA-best mark

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker scored 19 points as the San Antonio Spurs won 109-84 on Sunday night, beating the New Orleans Hornets for the second time in a week.

Matt Bonner added 14 points, hitting four of five 3-point attempts, as the Spurs improved their NBA-best win-loss record to 17-3 and matched their best start through 20 games since the 2007-08 season.

NBA Roundup Chris Paul had 16 points for the Hornets, who have lost four of five and were blown out from the start. They trailed by 38 and lately look nothing like the team that opened with eight straight wins.

But this win will likely be overshadowed by news Sunday that Hornets owner George Shinn has agreed to sell the club to the NBA. A person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press the deal could be completed within days.

Knicks 116, Raptors 99

At Toronto, Amare Stoudemire had 31 points and a season-high 16 rebounds and Wilson Chandler added 21 points as New York extended its road winning streak to seven.

Landry Fields had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Raymond Felton had 18 points for the Knicks, who matched their longest road winning streak since a seven-game run between Dec. 27, 1994, and Jan. 22, 1995.

Amir Johnson had a season-high 22 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for Toronto. Nuggets 108, Grizzlies 107

At Denver, Nene scored 27 points and Arron Afflalo added 25 as Denver held

off Memphis to give coach George Karl his 999th NBA victory.

Karl, talking with the Nuggets about an extension through the 2011-12 season, is 999-677 for a winning percentage of .596. Rudy Gay led the Grizzlies with 24 points.

Celtics 100, Nets 75

At Newark, Nate Robinson scored 21 points starting in place of an injured Rajon Rondo, leading Boston to its seventh straight victory.

Rondo was a last-minute scratch because of hamstring and foot injuries.

Jordan Farmar led New Jersey with 16 points.

Suns 125, Wizards 108

At Phoenix, Steve Nash was 8 of 8 from the field, made all four of his foul shots, scored 20 points and had a season-high 17 assists to help Phoenix keep Washington winless on the road this season.

Hakim Warrick had a season-high 26 points for the Suns.

Andray Blatche topped the Wizards, 0-10 on the road, with a season-high 24 points. Thunder 114, Warriors 109

At Oklahoma, Kevin Durant scored 28 points in his first game back from a knee injury, and Russell Westbrook added 19 points and 13 assists for Oklahoma City.

Stephen Curry scored a season-high 39 points and

ignited the Warriors' rally from a 21-point deficit to cut it to three in the final minute.

Oklahoma City made its first 29 free throws before Durant and Westbrook missed three in the final 2½ minutes to let Golden State stick around. The Thunder finished 37 for 40 from the foul line.

Pistons 102, Cavaliers 92

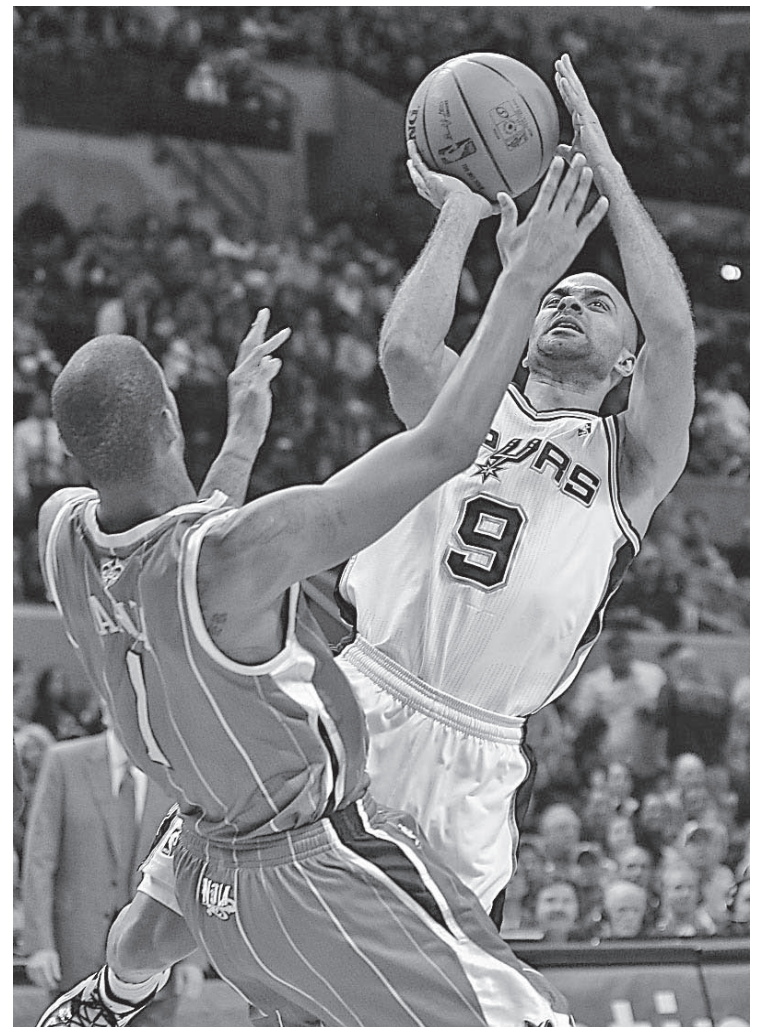
At Auburn Hills, Richard Hamilton scored 27 points and Rodney Stuckey added 24 points and 11 assists to help Detroit beat Cleveland.

Both teams came into the game off embarrassing performances.

Cleveland lost its last two games by a combined 62 points, including the highly anticipated return of LeBron James. Meanwhile, the Pistons were beaten at home by an Orlando team missing Dwight Howard, Jameer Nelson and two other key players because of the flu.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with 22 points.

In other NBA games it was Boston 100, New Jersey 75; New York 116, Toronto 99; Detroit 102, Cleveland 92; Oklahoma City 114, Golden State 109; San Antonio 109, New Orleans 84; Denver 108, Memphis 107; Phoenix 125, Washington 108; and Portland 100, L.A. Clippers 91.



New Orleans Hornets' Chris Paul, left, and teammates sit on the bench during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 in San Antonio. San Antonio won 109-84.

Associated Press

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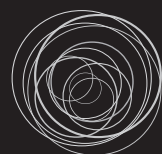
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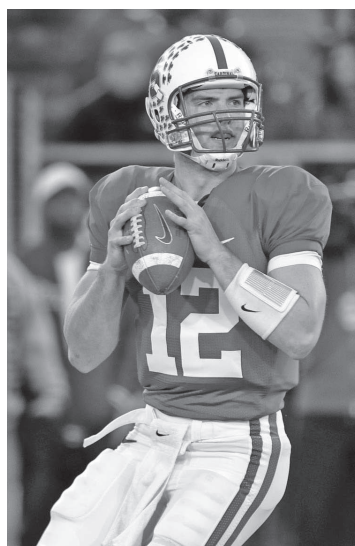
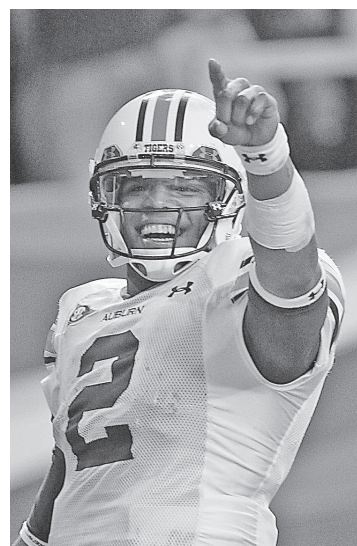
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Newton, James among 4 Heisman Trophy finalists



From left to right: Auburn quarterback Cameron Newton (2); Oregon running back LaMichael James (21); Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck (12) and Boise State Broncos quarterback Kellen Moore (11). □

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

Auburn quarterback Cam Newton and Oregon running back LaMichael James will meet up in New York before heading to Arizona for next month's national championship game.

Newton and James have been announced as finalists for the Heisman Trophy and will be joined by Stanford's Andrew Luck and Kellen Moore of Boise State for Saturday's announcement.

Newton overcame a pay-to-play scandal with a superb season on the field, piling up nearly 4,000 combined yards and 49 touchdowns in leading the top-ranked Tigers into the Jan. 10 national championship game.

The dynamic James had more yards and touchdowns than anyone else in FBS,

helping the second-ranked Ducks into their first national championship game.

Newton is the front-runner, but the big question is whether voters will look past the pay-to-play scandal involving his father.

Playing for a junior college team in Texas just a year ago, Newton was unparalleled on the field.

This year, too.

At Auburn, he threw for 2,589 yards and 28 touchdowns while running for 1,409 yards and 20 more scores, joining Florida quarterback and former Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow as the only FBS players to have 20 touchdowns rushing and passing in a season.

In his final regular-season game, he threw four TD passes and scored two more on the ground in Auburn's 56-17 rout

of the 18th-ranked Gamecocks that earned Auburn the SEC championship and a shot at its first national title since 1957. The knock against Newton is the shenanigans by his father, Cecil.

The elder Newton was accused of working with the owner of a scouting service to get up to \$180,000 for his son to play for at Mississippi State while the quarterback was being recruited out of junior college last year.

The NCAA cleared Cam, saying neither he nor Auburn knew anything about it, but Heisman voters might be leery of another Reggie Bush situation. The 2005 Heisman winner from USC gave back his trophy earlier this year and his school was hit with heavy sanctions after a four-year NCAA investigation determined he was ineligible

that season for receiving improper benefits.

If voters steer away from Newton, James could swoop in and become the first Oregon player to win college football's most prestigious individual award.

James was the main cog in Oregon's nearly point-a-minute offense, forcing teams to key on him while the rest of his talented teammates ran all over the field.

Oregon led the nation in scoring at nearly 50 points per game and was second in total yards, just a few tenths behind Oklahoma State at 537 yards per game.

Even with the extra attention, James led the nation with 1,682 yards and 21 touchdowns, and his 152 yards per game was nearly 10 more than Connecticut's Jordan Todman in second. He closed out the

regular season by gaining 134 yards in Oregon's 37-20 win over rival Oregon State on Saturday that clinched the school's first trip to the national title game.

Luck was second fiddle to Washington's Heisman hopeful Jake Locker to open the season, but quickly established himself as the Pac-10's best quarterback.

The 6-foot-4 junior won a lopsided battle over Locker and his Huskies early in the season and guided the fifth-ranked Cardinal to one of the best seasons in school history. A projected top NFL pick, Luck threw for over 3,000 yards and 28 touchdowns with just seven interceptions while completing 70 percent of his passes for an 11-1 team that earned an Orange Bowl berth.

Moore wasn't much of a Heisman hopeful early in the season, but quickly played his way into the picture while leading the Broncos to the cusp of a BCS bowl berth.

The junior was second in the nation in passer efficiency, throwing for over 3,500 yards with 33 TDs and five interceptions, but his chances took a hit with a loss to Nevada that knocked Boise State out of BCS contention. Alabama's Mark Ingram, the 2009 Heisman Trophy winner, wasn't much of a factor in his bid to repeat.

The bruising running back missed the first two games after offseason knee surgery and wasn't nearly as dynamic as a year ago, rushing for 816 yards, half his total from a year ago. His team also had its repeat national title hopes fizzle with an early-season loss to South Carolina and later losses to LSU and Newton's Tigers. □



Kelly nets hat trick in Senators' win over NYR

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Kelly scored all three goals in Ottawa's 3-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Sunday night.

NHL Roundup Kelly scored a short-handed goal in the second period and completed his hat trick into an empty net in the game's final second. Kelly doubled his season goal total to six.

Pascal Leclaire made 25 saves for his second win of the season for Ottawa, which won for just the third time in 11 games. The struggling Senators (12-14-2) had been shut out in their previous two games at home.

Brandon Prust scored a short-handed goal for the Rangers (16-12-1), who lost for only

the third time in nine games. Henrik Lundqvist finished with 22 saves.

Flyers 3, Islanders 2

At Uniondale, Daniel Briere scored the tiebreaking goal with 5:44 left and Philadelphia held on to beat the New York Islanders yet again.

Philadelphia has won all three against the Islanders this season and has won 21 of the past 23 meetings between the Atlantic Division rivals. New York had taken a 2-1 lead in the third period on goals by P.A. Parenteau and Frans Nielsen in a span of 36 seconds.

Matt Carle and Andreas Nodl also scored for Philadelphia, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 28 shots for the win.

Dwayne Roloson made 24 saves for the Islanders, who lost for the 17th time in 18 games (1-14-3) overall. New York went 0 for 4 on the power play and has failed on each of its past 36 advantages over 11 games.

Blackhawks 4, Flames 2

At Chicago, Dave Bolland scored two power-play goals, and Chicago overcame the loss of star forward Patrick Kane in the opening minute.

Bryan Bickell and Jonathan Toews also scored power-play goals for Chicago.

Kane sustained an undisclosed lower body injury 46 seconds in and didn't return.

Jarome Iginla and Anton Babchuk scored on the power play for the Flames. Babchuk's



New York Rangers' Erik Christensen, left, jumps over Ottawa Senators' Chris Kelly in the second period of their NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010.

Associated Press

goal was his first since joining Calgary in a trade from Carolina on Nov. 17.

Coyotes 3, Ducks 0

At Anaheim, Ilya Bryzgalov shut out his former team for the third time since leaving Anaheim, Taylor Pyatt scored on a deflection and Shane Doan connected during a power play to lead Phoenix.

Bryzgalov made 39 saves for his second shutout of the season and 18th of his NHL career. He was waived by the Ducks during the 2007-08 season and claimed by the Coyotes.

Lee Stempniak, playing in his 400th NHL regular-season game, scored into an empty net with 2:56 remaining.

Blues 3, Canucks 2

At Vancouver, Alexander Steen scored his second goal

6:11 into the third period and added an assist as St. Louis snapped a five-game losing streak.

Matt D'Agostini had a goal and an assist, and Jaroslav Halak made 21 saves as St. Louis bounced back from a 2-1 overtime loss in Edmonton on Saturday when top center Andy McDonald sustained an upper body injury.

Jannik Hansen and Kevin Bieksa scored, and Roberto Luongo finished with 25 saves for the Canucks, who had won four straight.

In other NHL games it was Philadelphia 3, N.Y. Islanders 2; Ottawa 3, N.Y. Rangers 1; Chicago 4, Calgary 2; Phoenix 3, Anaheim 0; and St. Louis 3, Vancouver 2. □

Guerin retires after 18 NHL seasons

PITTSBURGH — Longtime NHL forward Bill Guerin, unable to land a contract this season, retired Monday after a career in which he scored 429 goals in 18 seasons with eight teams.

The Pittsburgh Penguins honored Guerin before Monday night's game against New Jersey, his first NHL club. Guerin was given a framed portrait and a trip to Hawaii.

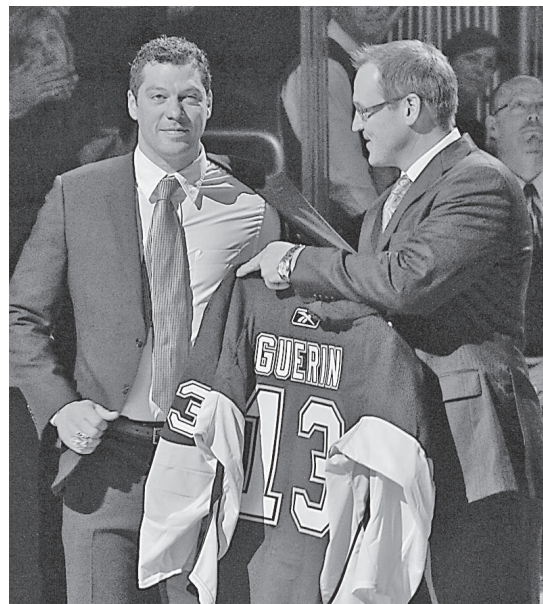
Guerin spent his final 1 1/2 seasons with the Penguins, scoring seven goals in 24 playoff games during their run to a Stanley Cup title in 2009. He also won the Stanley Cup with the Devils in 1995, the team that drafted him No. 5 overall in 1989. He made his NHL debut with New Jersey during the 1991-92 season.

The former Boston College player scored at least 25 goals eight times, including a career-high 41 with Boston during a 66-point season in 2001-02. He had a career-high 69 points on 34 goals and 35 assists with Dallas in the 2003-04 season.

Pittsburgh didn't offer the 40-year-old Guerin a contract this season, and the Philadelphia Flyers didn't sign him following a preseason tryout.

"I was OK with it being over," Guerin said. "My heart was here (in Pittsburgh). There was no reason for me to keep hanging on." Guerin is expected to take a scouting or administrative position with the Penguins.

"I'm trying to figure out what I want to do," Guerin said. "I do want to stay in the game." Guerin also played with Edmonton, Boston, Dallas, St. Louis, San Jose and the New York



Pittsburgh penguins coach Dan Bylsma, right, presents Bill Guerin with a team jersey in a ceremony honoring him for retiring as a Pittsburgh Penguin before the start of the NHL hockey game against the New Jersey Devils, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010 in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Islanders during a career in which he had 427 assists and 856 points in 1,263 games. The Massachusetts native played on U.S. Olympic teams in 1998, 2002 and 2006.

Guerin had 26 goals and 31 assists in 95 games with Pittsburgh over parts of two seasons after being dealt by the Islanders in March 2009. Last season, he had 21 goals and 24 assists in 79 games, mostly playing on Sidney Crosby's line.

"I ended with a good year," Guerin said. "That's how I wanted it. I feel like I'm going out on my terms." □

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B6 | **SPORTS**

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Aruba TODAY

Don Meredith dies after brain hemorrhage

By SUSAN MONTOTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Don Meredith, the former Dallas Cowboys quarterback who served as a folksy foil for Howard Cosell on ABC's "Monday Night Football" and helped carve out the niche for colorful ex-athlete broadcasters, has died. "Dandy Don," as he was known, was 72.

Meredith's wife, Susan, told The Associated Press her husband died Sunday in Santa Fe after suffering a brain hemorrhage and lapsing into a coma. She and her daughter were at Meredith's side when he died.

"He was the best there was," she said Monday, describing him as kind, warm and funny. "We lost a good one."

Meredith played for the Cowboys from 1960-1968, becoming the starting quarterback in 1965.

While he never took the Cowboys to the Super Bowl, Meredith was one of the franchise's first stars. He led the Cowboys to three straight division titles and to consecutive NFL Championship games in 1966 and 1967, where they lost both games to eventual champion Green Bay.

"Don Meredith was one of the most colorful characters in NFL history. He was star on the field who became an even bigger star on television," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "He brought joy to football fans, from his play in historic NFL games like the Ice Bowl to

his great personality that helped launch the success of Monday Night Football."

Over his nine-year career, Meredith threw for 17,199 yards and 111 touchdowns. He retired unexpectedly before the 1969 season and just two years later joined Keith Jackson and Cosell in the broadcast booth as part of the "Monday Night Football" crew.

He quickly became one of the most popular broadcasters in sports with a homespun humor that played off Cosell in particular. Meredith's signature call was singing the famous Willie Nelson song "Turn Out the Lights" when it appeared a game's outcome had been determined.

Meredith left ABC after the 1973 season for a three-year stint at NBC. He returned to the "MNF" crew in 1977 before retiring in 1984, one year after Cosell left the team.

Meredith was one of the first athletes to make the transition from the field to color analyst and the move to calling "Monday Night Football" was an easy one for him. He was part of many memorable moments on ABC's landmark hit.

In 1970, Meredith was in the booth for the St. Louis Cardinals' 38-0 whitewashing of his former team. The Cotton Bowl crowd late in the game began chanting "We want Meredith!"

Meredith quipped, "No way you're getting me down there." Another famous Meredith moment occurred in 1972 at the Houston Astrodome. The

Oakland Raiders were in the process of beating the Houston Oilers 34-0. A cameraman had a shot of a disgruntled Oilers fan, who then made an obscene gesture.

Said Meredith: "He thinks they're No. 1 in the nation."

"Don Meredith was a Dallas Cowboys original. His wit, charm, and strength of personality were matched only by his wonderful leadership, toughness and athletic skill," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement. "Throughout 50 years of history, the Cowboys legacy has been built by dynamic and colorful personalities who could also compete at the highest level. No one fit that description better than Don Meredith."

Born April 10, 1938, Meredith was born and raised in Mount Vernon, Texas, about 100 miles east of Dallas. He never played a home game outside of North Texas.

Meredith was a three-year at quarterback for SMU and an All-America selection in 1958 and 1959. He was drafted in the third round by the Chicago Bears in 1960 and traded to the expansion Cowboys franchise for future draft picks.

Meredith shared time under center with Eddie LeBaron before winning the starting job in 1965 and the following year guided the Cowboys to their first winning season (10-3-1). He was named NFL Player of the Year after throwing a career-high 24 touchdown passes and 2,805 yards.

Meredith was one of nine Dallas players selected to the Pro Bowl that year — the first of his two

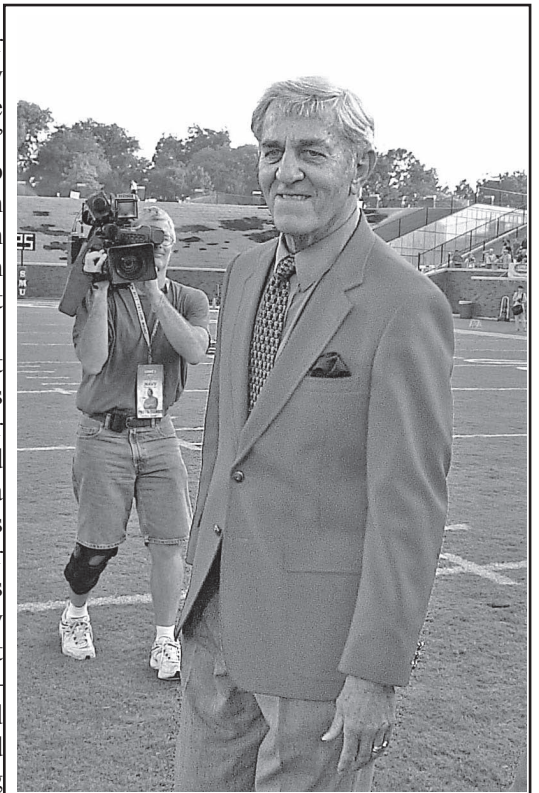
Pro Bowl years.

Although Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman made the Cowboys' quarterback job synonymous with greatness, both credit Meredith for launching that tradition.

"He did it without as much help as some of the other guys had," said Lee Roy Jordan, a former Cowboys linebacker. "Our offensive line was not very good early on. He got beat up pretty bad — broken noses and collarbones and ribs, everything you can think of, Don had it. But he was one tough individual. He played with many an ailment and injury, and was very, very competitive. He and Bob Hayes really set the standard for the wide-open offense, the motion guys and big plays."

Meredith's last moment in a Cowboys uniform was painful. He threw three interceptions in a 1968 playoff game against the Cleveland Browns and was pulled in favor of Craig Morton.

"I tried to talk him out of it," Dallas coach Tom Landry said after Meredith announced his retirement. "But when you lose your desire in this game, that's



This Aug. 31, 2002, file photo shows former Dallas Cowboys and Southern Methodist University quarterback Don Meredith walking out for the coin toss before the Navy-SMU football game in Dallas. Meredith died in Santa Fe, N.M., after suffering a brain hemorrhage and lapsing into a coma, on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. He was 72. Cowboys' Associated Press

it."

In addition to his broadcasting career, Meredith appeared in several TV shows and movies after his playing career ended. He had a recurring role in "Police Story" and was a spokesman for Lipton teas. Meredith and Don Perkins were the second and third players inducted to Cowboys Ring of Honor in 1976. Susan Meredith said a private graveside service was planned. □

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AT RENAISSANCE			
FASTER	5.45	8.30	NEW
daily:	12.45	3.15	
late show:	11.00		R
LOVE RANCH	5.30	8.00	NEW
matinee:	12.30	3.00	
late show:	11.00		R
ANJAANA ANJAANI	6.00		NEW
daily:	12.00	3.00	
late show:			PG
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS	4.15	7.45	PG-13
daily:	1.00		
late show:	11.00		
MEGAMIND 3D	4.45	2.30	PG
daily:	12.15		
late show:			
JACKASS	7.15	9.30	R
daily:			
late show:	11.45		
BURLESQUE		6.15 8.45	PG-13
matinee:			
late show:	11.30		
SINTERKLAAS EN HET PAKJES MYSTERIE	4.00	2.00	PG
daily:	12.00		
late show:			
FAIR GAME			PG-13
daily:	9.00		
matinee:			
late show:	11.30		

AT PASEO HERENCIA			
FASTER	6.00	8.30	NEW
daily:	1.00	3.30	
late show:	11.00		R
JACKASS	7.00	9.15	R
daily:			
late show:	11.30		
DUE DATE	4.30	2.15	R
daily:	12.00		
late show:			
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS	4.45	8.00	PG-13
daily:	1.45		
late show:	11.15		
UNSTOPPABLE	6.15	8.45	PG-13
daily:	1.15	3.45	
late show:	11.30		
MEGAMIND	4.30	2.15	PG
daily:	12.00		
late show:			
MORNING GLORY	6.45	9.00	PG-13
daily:			
late show:	11.30		
BURLESQUE	6.00	8.45	PG-13
daily:	12.15	3.15	
late show:	11.15		

AT CRYSTAL THEATER			
FASTER	8:30		
daily:			

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

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Woods has reason to look ahead

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The first sign that something was different about Tiger Woods came during the pro-am.

After getting the yardage to the green on the par-5 13th hole — 282 yards — he pulled a 3-wood from his bag and asked a small group standing behind him, “Can I get there with this?”

“Eventually,” came one reply. Woods smiled, tried to disguise a friendly gesture by scratching the side of his leg, then set up over the shot and drilled it. The ball never left the flag, cleared the bunker and settled some 30 feet behind the green.

His caddie, Steve Williams, looked on with a straight face. Shots like that have been rare this year.

Several more followed. When it was suggested toward the end of his round that Woods was playing his best on Wednesday, Williams again answered solemnly, “He’s done a lot of work since Australia.”

It was like that all week at

the Chevron World Challenge until Sunday, when it mattered. Equipped with a four-shot lead, Woods missed three putts inside 6 feet and his lead narrowed to one. Then, he fell into some old swing habits under the pressure of contending on the back nine. It has been one year and 20 days since he felt those emotions, and that’s when he was susceptible to crumbling. Woods found his game at the end, but it didn’t matter. Even after hitting an 8-iron as pure as can be to inside 3 feet for an easy birdie, Graeme McDowell denied him victory with a stunning end to a great year — he not only holed a 20-foot birdie putt to force a playoff, he then made a similar putt on the first extra hole to win.

For McDowell, everything is going his way — a feeling Woods used to know well.

He won the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. He was the hero of the Ryder Cup for winning the final match for Europe. And he became the first player to beat Woods when trailing by at least three shots going into the final round.

No one else in 24 attempts managed to do that.

“Obviously I didn’t know the stat,” McDowell said, moving into understatement mode. “But I was aware that he’s a pretty good player and a pretty damn good closer. So yeah, to be the guy to break that run is pretty special. I’m sure he’s disappointed. I’m definitely a guy who says that golf needs Tiger Woods, and we need him back winning tournaments.

“He’ll be back winning tournaments very soon.”

If he looked like the Woods of old, he sure didn’t sound like it moments after shaking McDowell’s hand on the 18th green.

“It was a great week, even though I didn’t win,” Woods said. “I’m proud of today, even though I lost.”

That sounded like something from the mouth of Phil Mickelson, the master of keeping golf in perspective. Woods was back to his old self a short time later when he got on Twitter and typed in, “Really hate losing, Graeme did what he needed to do to win and I didn’t.”

The Chevron World

American golfer Dudley Hart’s brief return ends

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

COOLUM, Australia (AP) — American Dudley Hart’s return to tournament golf after an 18-month layoff due to back surgery has lasted just three rounds of one tournament.

Hart has withdrawn from this week’s Australian PGA at Coolum, organizers confirmed Monday, a day after recurring pain in his legs forced him to quit before the fourth round of the Australian Open in Sydney.

The 42-year-old Hart had muscle spasms in Friday’s second round at The Lakes in Sydney but managed to shoot 68-69 to be among the leaders going into the weekend. But after a 1-over 73 Saturday, he said he contacted his physiotherapist about the problem, and both were concerned.

“It’s a very similar pain to what I experienced before,” Hart told a television interviewer, referring to the problem which required surgery to fuse the L5 and S1 discs in his spine.

“It’s about as bad as when I had to have surgery. I’m really nervous about what’s going on. I’m nervous of the symptoms.”

Hart had planned to use the two Australian tournaments as preparation for his return to

the U.S. PGA tour in 2011, where he has a medical exemption to play 13 events.

On Sunday, Hart attempted to play the fourth round of the Australian Open but after two or three shots on the practice range, he said he knew he couldn’t complete the tournament. He had asked Golf Australia for an invitation to the Australian Open, and the PGA of Australia for one to the Australian PGA, and both agreed.

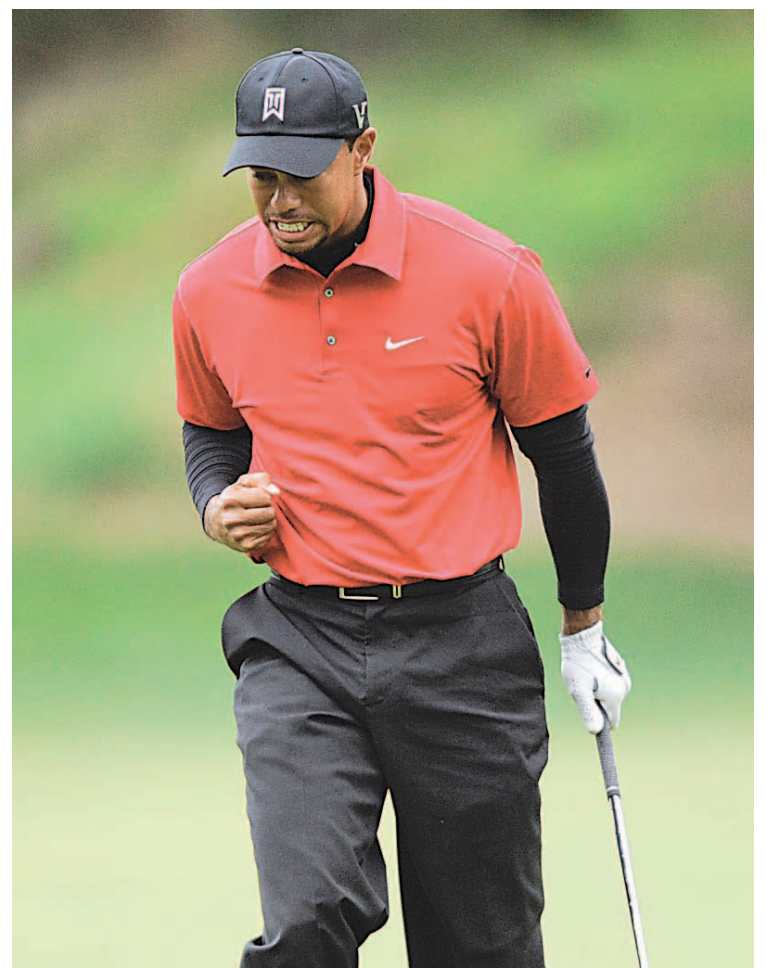
He apologized to both groups before returning to the United States on Sunday.

Last week, he’d been optimistic about his chances in Sydney, playing down suggestions that the long flight to Australia might not have been wise.

“In my mind I was thinking that, but if I could come down here and play two weeks in a row, and my back could handle the flight and playing two weeks in a row, to me that is a great test,” Hart said. “Maybe I can tweak something and get past this and have no more issues. Then I’ll be raring to go for January for our new season.”

Hart’s last tournament was the Colonial in May 2009.

Hart has won two tournaments on the U.S. tour — the 1996 Canadian Open and 2000 Honda Classic. □



Challenge, for most players, marked the end of a long year. For Woods, it seemed like the start of a new year.

Getting through Thanksgiving, when all of his personal troubles began last year, was a big deal for no other reason than he passed an important mile marker on the calendar.

Woods was asked the last time he was really looking forward to a tournament because of how he was playing, and he again mentioned the Monday of the Ryder Cup, when he won his singles match against Francesco Molinari by playing the last seven holes in 7 under. There have been more hiccups since Celtic Manor, and perhaps more are to follow.

Woods only began working with Sean Foley about three months ago, and Williams is amazed how quickly he is picking up on the changes. Woods sounded as though he expected problems with his swing under the pressure of a back nine in the final group.

“I lost my swing in the middle part of the round, and pieced it back together again,” he said.

“I was proud of that. I was very committed coming in, and hit some really, really good shots, which was good. If anything, I thought that’s when there might be a breakdown, but I was very pleased that I was able to put that back together then. “Unfortunately, during the middle part of the round,

I lost all those shots,” he said. “And Graeme was playing really well.”

McDowell saw enough to believe that better days are coming soon. The question is whether the aura of intimidation that Woods held for so long will return, too.

“There’s something a bit special about his golf game,” McDowell said, “and I fully expect that mystique to return as the golf clubs start doing the talking again.”

The clubs sound louder than a whisper, but not quite a shout, as Woods heads into an offseason in which he turns 35 and is in the midst of the longest drought of his career. He could not remember the last time he went an entire year without winning.

“It’s been a while,” he said.

Woods most likely will return at Torrey Pines the last week of January for the Farmers Insurance Open, a tournament he has won six times. That gives him almost two months to continue rehearsing a new swing, remembering what it was like to win.

The last time he failed to win at Torrey Pines was in 2004. Woods did not play in 2009 while recovering from knee surgery, and last year because he was in a Mississippi clinic. Does he still remember how to get to Torrey Pines? Woods laughed and kept walking toward the parking lot. □

Klitschko says Chisora better than Haye



Ukrainian heavy weight world champion Wladimir Klitschko, left, and his British challenger Dereck Chisora face each other after a press conference in Mannheim, Germany, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010. Klitschko will box Chisora in a WBO, IBF and IBO world championship fight on Saturday in Mannheim.

NESHA STARCEVIC
AP Sports Writer
MANNHEIM, Germany (AP) — Heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko believes his challenger Dereck Chisora is a better fighter than David Haye — as Chisora at least shows up for fights.

Associated Press
Chisora will challenge Klitschko for his IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight belts on Saturday, while Haye has pulled out of offers to fight either Wladimir or his older brother Vitali, the WBC champion. Chisora has only 14 fights

behind him, all wins, but the British fighter dismissed Klitschko as a boxer who's mainly fought "taxi drivers." Klitschko says Chisora is a much underestimated fighter "with pretty good skills" but left little doubt during a news conference Monday that the Ukrainian expects to deliver a beating in his 19th title defense.

"He is a very special man, he is much underestimated," Klitschko said. "He's better than David Haye, he is as good at promoting himself but he even shows up for the fight," the vastly more experienced Klitschko said. "He is also undefeated."

"As a boxer, he's got pretty good skills, determination. He's a very busy fighter, so there will be a lot of action Saturday. But as a person, he is horrible."

Chisora thanked the Klitschko clan for giving him the opportunity to fight for the

title. But at the same time, he insulted Klitschko's trainer Emanuel Steward and later got into a long tirade about which of the two fighters has the prettier girlfriend.

Though Haye has pulled out of offers to fight either Klitschko, he issued another challenge after his one-sided win over Audley Harrison recently.

Chisora said Wladimir has been picking up weak opponents in chalking up a 55-3 record, with 49 KOs, a fighter no one wants pay to watch in "Las Vegas."

"You tried to buy greatness but you are not great," he said, as Klitschko sat next to him without showing any emotion. "It's time for you to have a proper fight."

"He is on the way down and I am on the way up. He's never boxed anyone like me. I am young, I move on my feet, I am fast. I am a different heavyweight," Chisora said.

"I am here to take the title back to Britain."

Responding to comments that Chisora is inexperienced for a major title fight, his trainer Don Charles said: "How do you get experience — by doing the task."

"He is got the style to do it," Charles said of his fighter's chances of upsetting the younger Klitschko brother.

Chisora gives up 5½ inches to the 6-ft-6 (1.98-meter) Klitschko and is seven years younger than the 34-year-old Ukrainian.

Chisora's last fight was a ninth-round TKO over fellow Briton Sam Sexton on Sept. 18, while Klitschko knocked out Samuel Peter in the 10th round one week earlier.

Steward said Klitschko had been upset by Chisora's "disrespectful" pre-fight rhetoric.

"You are going to see a much more aggressive Wladimir," Steward said. □



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski gestures during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Butler Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J. Duke won 82-70.

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer
Another Duke victory over

Associated Press
a Top 10 team and the Blue Devils' win in a rematch of last season's national

Duke still unanimous No. 1, Louisville in Top 25

championship game had them a unanimous No. 1 for a second straight week.

The Blue Devils capped a tough two-week stretch by beating Michigan State and Butler, and that meant they again got all 65 first-place votes from the national media panel on Monday.

Duke (8-0) was No. 1 in the preseason poll and has stayed there for the first four polls of the regular season.

Ohio State, Pittsburgh, Kansas and Kansas State, which also lost to Duke, were second through fifth for the second week in a row.

Connecticut, which went from unranked to seventh last week in the second-best inseason poll jump ever, moved up one place to sixth.

Michigan State, Syracuse, Georgetown and Baylor rounded out the top 10.

It is the first-ever appearance in the top 10 for Baylor, which was 11th

last week and moved up with wins over Prairie View A&M and Arizona State.

Tennessee jumped two spots to lead the second 10 and was followed by Villanova, Memphis, San Diego State, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, BYU, Purdue and UNLV.

Washington, Minnesota, Notre Dame, Louisville and Texas rounded out the Top 25.

Louisville (6-0) moved into the rankings for the first time this season. The Cardinals' biggest win was over then-No. 16 Butler in the opening game at their new downtown arena. They were ranked for four weeks last season and in 2008-09 they were in the Top 25 all season, reaching No. 1 for the first time in school history in the final poll.

Florida (6-2) lost to Central Florida last week and dropped out from 18th. The Gators, whose other loss was to Ohio State, were No. 9 in the preseason poll and

they are the first member of that top 10 to fall out of the rankings.

Louisville is the seventh Big East team in the rankings, while the Big Ten and Big 12 have five each. The Big East has four of the top 10 — Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Syracuse, Georgetown — and the Big 12 has three — Kansas, Kansas State and Baylor.

Georgetown moved into the top 10 for the first time this season, making the week's biggest jump from 16th to No. 9. Kentucky, which lost to North Carolina, and Minnesota, which lost to Virginia, had the week's biggest drops falling seven places to 17th and 22nd, respectively.

The Jimmy V Classic at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday will have Kansas facing Memphis and Syracuse against Michigan State. Notre Dame is at Kentucky on Wednesday and Tennessee is at Pittsburgh on Saturday. □

Aruba TODAY

JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS

Swiss cut off bank account for WikiLeaks' Assange

By JOHN HEILPRIN,
Associated Press

GENEVA – The Swiss postal system stripped WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange of a key fundraising tool Monday, accusing him of lying and immediately shutting down one of his bank accounts.

The swift action by Postfinance, the financial arm of Swiss Post, came after it determined the “Australian citizen provided false information regarding his place of residence during the account opening process.”

Assange had told Postfinance he lived in Geneva but could offer no proof that he was a Swiss resident, a requirement of opening such an account.

Postfinance spokesman Alex Josty told The Associated Press the account was closed Monday afternoon and there would be “no criminal consequences” for misleading authorities.

“That’s his money, he will get

his money back,” Josty said. “We just close the account and that’s it.”

The setback leaves Assange with only a few options for raising money for his secret-spilling site through a Swiss-Icelandic credit card processing center and accounts in Iceland and Germany.

WikiLeaks has been under intense international scrutiny over its disclosure of a mountain of classified U.S. diplomatic cables, after previously releasing tens of thousands of classified U.S. military documents on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The unprecedented disclosures have embarrassed the U.S. and other governments worldwide and prompted U.S. officials to pressure the WikiLeaks site and its facilitators.

A Swiss website, wikileaks.ch, has been handling much of the traffic from WikiLeaks after other Internet service and online payment providers

began severing ties with the organization.

WikiLeaks’ Swedish servers came under suspected attack again Monday, the latest in a series of online computer assaults that have knocked the secret-spilling group across the Web.

WikiLeaks, in a tweet to its followers, confirmed it was having difficulty with its PRQ servers but did not elaborate.

“We are investigating the cause,” it said.

While U.S. officials are investigating whether they can charge Assange, the 39-year-old Australian faces sexual misconduct allegations connected to his stay in Sweden over the summer.

The Swedish case has been described by his British lawyer Mark Stephens as a political stunt, but it could eventually lead to his extradition from Britain to Sweden. A European arrest warrant was issued for Assange last week



A screen shot of a web browser shows the wikileaks.ch home page with a portrait of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange next to the out of service wikileaks.com domain, in Lavigny December 4, 2010.

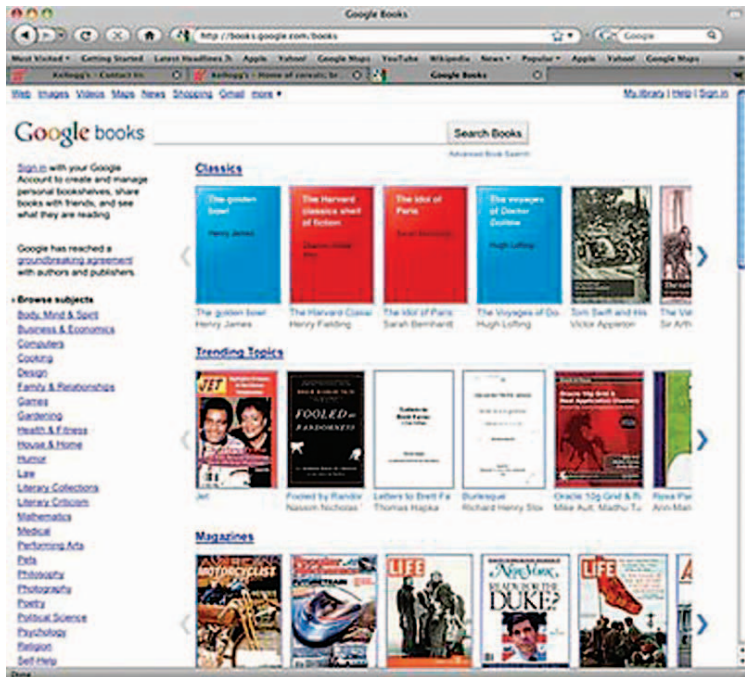
and it is currently working its way through the British legal system.

Extradition experts say such warrants can take weeks or even months to lead to an arrest, although high profile cases tend to move faster. The BBC said the Swedish warrant was now with London’s Scotland Yard — suggesting that matters were developing

quickly.

The broadcaster didn’t cite its source, and the police force declined comment.

Scotland Yard would still have to seek a warrant at Westminster and City Magistrates’ Court, which handles extradition, before Assange were detained. Such a move would not be announced ahead of time. □



In this screen shot the Google books website is shown. The long-awaited Internet book store opening Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, in the U.S., draws upon a portion of the 15 million printed books that Google has scanned into its computers during the past six years.

(AP Photo)

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE,
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO – Google Inc. is making the leap from digital librarian to merchant in a challenge to Amazon.com Inc. and its Kindle electronic reader.

The long-awaited Internet book store, which opened Monday in the U.S., draws upon a portion of the 15 million printed books that Google has scanned into its

computers during the past six years.

About 4,000 publishers, including CBS Corp.’s Simon & Schuster Inc., Random House Inc. and Pearson PLC’s Penguin Group, are also allowing Google to carry many of their recently released books in the new store.

Those publishing deals will ensure that most of the current best sellers are among the 3 million e-books initially

available in Google’s store, said Amanda Edmonds, who oversaw the company’s partnerships. Millions more out-of-print titles will appear in Google’s store, called eBooks, if the company can gain federal court approval of a proposed class-action settlement with U.S. publishers and authors.

The \$125 million settlement has been under review for more than two years. It faces stiff opposition from rivals, consumer watchdogs, academic experts, literary agents and even foreign governments, which worry that Google would get too much power to control prices in the still-nascent market for electronic books. Amazon.com, which started its business as a seller of books over the Internet, is among the competitors trying to squelch the settlement. The U.S. Justice Department has advised the judge overseeing the case that the settlement probably would violate

antitrust and copyright laws. Books bought from Google’s store can be read on any machine with a Web browser. There are also free applications that can be installed on Apple Inc.’s iPad and iPhone, as well as other devices powered by Google’s own mobile operating system, Android. But Google’s eBooks can’t be loaded on to the Kindle.

Electronic books are expected to generate nearly \$1 billion in U.S. sales this year and climb to \$1.7 billion by 2012 as more people buy electronic readers and computer tablets such as the iPad, according to Forrester Research. The research group expects a total of 15 million e-readers and tablets to have been sold in the U.S. by the end of the year.

Google believes it’s already offering the broadest selection of digital titles in the world, and it plans to keep adding to the inventory if it can gain the necessary copyright clearances. The company, based in Mountain View,

Calif., believes it eventually will be able to make electronic copies of the estimated 130 million books in the world. It’s also planning to start selling books outside the U.S. next year.

Google’s eBooks store, originally to be called Editions, has been in the works for more than a year. The company already had been showing books no longer protected under copyright in their entirety and displaying snippets of other titles through its widely used search engine. The company is trying to position its new sales outlet as an ally to publishers, merchants and consumers looking for alternatives to Amazon’s electronic book store, which feeds Amazon’s hot-selling Kindle, but not other e-readers, including Barnes & Noble Inc.’s Nook. Google’s e-books will work on the Nook, Sony Corp.’s Reader devices and practically every other e-reading device except the Kindle. □

Google opens e-book store in challenge to Amazon

Palin goes camping with Kate plus 8 Gosselin kids



In this July 2010 photo released by TLC, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, left, shakes hands with Gosselin twins, Cara, right, and Mady, as their mother Kate Gosselin looks on as the Palins and the Gosselins go on a camping trip in Coffee Creek, Alaska, during a taping of 'Sarah Palin's Alaska.' The Gosselin-Palin camping trip episode will air on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 9 p.m. EST on TLC.

(AP Photo)

By FRAZIER MOORE,
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — Kate Gosselin is not a happy camper.

Johnny Cash jumpsuit brings \$50,000 at auction

By SUE MANNING,
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — “The Man in Black” was dressed in blue as he rehearsed for a 1969 concert at San Quentin.

The embroidered blue jumpsuit that Johnny Cash wore to practice caused a bidding war during a memorabilia auction Sunday, bringing in nearly 10 times what was expected.

The suit was expected to sell for \$5,000, but was eventually claimed for \$50,000 by a collector from Belgium, said Darren Julien, president and CEO of Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills. He would not name the buyer.

The auction of 321 lots sold for over \$700,000, nearly twice what was expected, Julien said Monday.

The late country singer was photographed in the suit giving a concert photographer “The Finger.”

That photo was used in a 1998 Billboard magazine ad purchased by Cash's record company to sarcastically thank Nashville and country radio after he received a best country album Grammy for “Unchained.”

“Johnny Cash is highly collectible. He's got global appeal, especially for a country artist. He was the first country music artist who was collectible. He set the standard,” Julien said. An international group of fans, collectors and investors took part in the auction, by phone or in person, he said.

A poster announcing Cash's performance at the prison sold for \$25,000, a 1968 passport for \$21,875 and a Martin guitar for \$50,000.

A shirt made by Nudie Cohn and worn by Cash when he was grand marshal of the American Bicentennial Grand Parade in 1976 brought in \$31,250 and a pair of Cash's knee-high boots sold for \$21,875.

Cash died in 2003 of complications from diabetes.

Because he performed at prison so often and led a rather rowdy life early in his career, many people believed he served time in prison. He did not, although he battled drug addiction over the years and received a suspended jail sentence in 1965 on a misdemeanor narcotics charge in Texas. □

On this week's edition of “Sarah Palin's Alaska,” she and her brood make a much-anticipated guest appearance. But don't expect it to reveal her inner Daniel Boone.

“How would you like to go camping with Kate and her eight kids — that TV show you watch?” Sarah Palin asks her daughter, Piper, at the start of the episode.

Piper squeals with delight at the idea of hanging with these stars of another TLC series.

As things develop, the camping trip in the Alaskan wilds will be no day at the beach for Kate. But it makes for a hilarious hour of Palin's show, which airs on TLC Sunday at 9 p.m. EST.

Read no further if you don't want spoiler details of Kate's stab at roughing it.

For a few fleeting moments, it seems she will savor her visit with the Palin family. She instantly bonds with Sarah, as they compare notes on the predatory nature of the media.

“There's not a whole lot of people that I run into that can understand the scrutiny (by) the media and beyond,” says Kate, whose crumbling marriage to Jon was documented on “Jon & Kate Plus 8” while it spurred a feeding frenzy from the tabloid press.

Now, single mom Kate and her kids just happened to be in Alaska taping one of her “Kate Plus 8” specials, which occasioned their guest spot with the Palins.

The first stop: Sarah takes Kate to a bear safety class to prepare her for their camping expedition.

On the road from Wasilla to the class in Anchorage, Sarah sort-of jokes that, in case of a bear attack, “You need a partner with you who's slower than you.”

“Oh, my gosh!” replies Kate, who already was spooked by the bear rug in the Palins' home. “Sacrifice your friends?”

At the rifle range, she looks more miserable than she used to look with Jon.

And that's only the beginning. The day of the camping trip, it's — wouldn't you know? — pouring rain.

Out in the middle of nowhere by a stream and surrounded by mountains, Sarah is smiling, chipper and (literally) loaded for bear.

“Rain or shine, Alaskans still camp. We still find a way to have fun,” she chirps.

Then Kate and her kids land at the campsite. Quickly, Kate proves to be a bigger pill than a horse tranquilizer.

“I'm not worrying about bears right now,” she is soon grouching. “I'm just worried about keeping my toes wiggling 'cause they're freezing.”

Sarah, daughters Piper and Willow, husband Todd and other family members seem to be having a blast. So, for that matter, are Kate's youngsters. □

Oprah hosts Franzen, makes new book club pick

By CARYN ROUSSEAU,
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Oprah Winfrey and author Jonathan Franzen have put their rocky past behind them.

Franzen appeared on Monday's “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” embracing his host after she chose his bestselling novel “Freedom” for her popular book club. Winfrey did not have Franzen on her show nine years ago, when his previous novel “The Corrections” was a book club selection, because he called some of her choices “schmaltzy.”

Winfrey said Monday she didn't have Franzen on her show then because she didn't want him to feel “uncomfortable.”

Franzen, 51, who is widely regarded as one of his generation's leading fiction writers, was branded as a snob for the comment even though he apologized quickly and repeatedly.

On Monday, he told Winfrey he considers himself a “Midwest egalitarian.” The pair discussed Franzen's writing process and his visit with President Barack Obama.



This photo taken Nov. 19, 2010 in Chicago and provided by Harpo Productions Inc., shows talk-show host Oprah Winfrey announcing on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” airing, Monday, Dec. 6, 2010, her book club selections, ‘A Tale of Two Cities’ and ‘Great Expectations’ by Charles Dickens.

(AP Photo)

“Bottomline is, I'm happy to have you,” Winfrey said.

“I'm happy to be here,” Franzen replied.

Winfrey said in September that she read “Freedom” after Franzen sent her a copy during the summer along with a note. She said she considered it a “tour de force” after the first chapter and called it a “masterpiece.” Released in late August, “Freedom” was virtually canonized by critics before publication and has topped best-seller lists. Franzen

was the subject of a Time Magazine cover story, titled “Great American Novelist.”

Also Monday, Winfrey announced her 65th book club selection would be a combination of two Charles Dickens classics, “A Tale of Two Cities” and “Great Expectations.” The two novels have been issued in a single bound Penguin paperback edition of about 800 pages with a list price of \$20. The electronic version, also from Penguin, sells for \$7.99. □



Stocks weaken on economy concerns; Dow off 19

By CHIP CUTTER,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks fell modestly in early afternoon trading Monday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the economic recovery is still struggling to become “self-sustaining” without government help.

Bernanke, in a taped interview with CBS’ “60 Minutes” Sunday, argued that Congress shouldn’t cut spending or boost taxes given how fragile the economy remains. He also said it could take four or five more years for unemployment, now at 9.8 percent, to fall to a historically normal 5 percent or 6 percent.

That’s taking some juice out of the market’s recent rally. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.11, or 0.2 percent, to 11,362.98.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index dropped 3.14, or 0.3 percent, to 1,221.57. The Nasdaq composite index fell 3.19, or 0.1 percent, to 2,588.27.

Last week, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.6 percent, its best weekly gain

since hitting a 2010 high on Nov. 5. The Dow is still up 8.9 percent for the year.

But Bernanke’s comments did little to calm investors’ fears about the economy, which motivated traders to sell stocks.

“There’s going to be continued unease about the recovery,” said Oliver Pursche, president of Gary Goldberg Financial Services, an investment management firm.

Treasury prices rose as investors put money into less risky assets. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite to its price, fell to 2.95 percent from 3.00 percent late Friday. Changing yields affect interest rates on a variety of business and consumer loans including mortgages.

Gold for February delivery rose \$8.10, or 0.6 percent, to \$1,414.20 an ounce. Silver for March delivery gained 51 cents to \$29.77 an ounce.

In U.S. corporate news, shares of Barnes & Noble Inc. shot up \$2.23, or 16.8 percent, to \$15.51 after activist investor William Ackman and other

shareholders of Borders Group Inc. said they were prepared to finance a \$16 per share takeover bid for Barnes & Noble. Shares of Borders rose 43 cents, or 39.8 percent, to \$1.51.

Sprint Nextel Corp. jumped 24 cents, or 6.1 percent, to \$4.16 after the company said it would start phasing out the Nextel part of its network in 2013. That decision follows near-constant subscriber losses since Sprint bought Nextel in 2005.

Pfizer Inc. rose 20 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$16.92 after the world’s biggest drugmaker abruptly replaced its CEO and chairman.

Massey Energy Co. rose \$1.95, or 3.9 percent, to \$52.37 after the company issued a surprise announcement late Friday that its chairman and CEO, Don Blankenship, would retire at the end of the year. He’s still expected to honor an agreement to testify this month about the April 5 explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine, the nation’s worst coal mine disaster in decades.

No new economic data is set



FILE - In this Dec. 2, 2010 file photo, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

to be released Monday. The government will release data on consumer borrowing on Tuesday.

A preliminary report on consumer sentiment from Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan is due out Friday. Traders will also be focused on the European debt crisis throughout the week. Finance ministers from the 16-nation euro zone gathered Monday to discuss ways to stabilize their currency union and avoid more bailouts. European officials wrestled over whether to

commit more money to help stabilize the euro.

Britain’s FTSE 100 rose 0.4 percent, while Germany’s DAX rose 0.1 percent. France’s CAC40 was unchanged.

Asian indexes closed mostly lower. Japan’s Nikkei 225 lost 0.1 percent, but China’s benchmark Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.5 percent.

The dollar rose 0.6 percent against an index of six other heavily traded currencies. The euro fell to \$1.3283 from \$1.3375 late Friday. □



FILE - In this Thursday, March 18, 2010 file photo, a statue which depicts a woman holding up the symbol of the euro is seen at the European Parliament in Brussels. The debt crisis has forced eurozone governments to rewrite some of the currency union’s most fundamental rules. But to dig the region out of its current predicament, governments might have to rattle some of the bloc’s other taboos.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File)

By GABRIELE
STEINHAUSER
PAN PYLAS,
AP Business Writers

BRUSSELS — European officials wrestled over whether to commit more money to help stabilize the

Eurozone under pressure to aid euro with more cash

euro as the European Central Bank revealed it has stepped up purchases of government bonds in an attempt to restore confidence in the EU’s single currency bloc.

Finance ministers gathered Monday in Brussels to find ways to fight the debt crisis that has rocked the currency bloc, while the European Central Bank said it splashed out euro1.965 billion (\$2.57 billion) buying government bonds in the week leading up to Tuesday. That was up from euro1.345 billion the week before and the highest weekly

amount in months.

Next week’s figures will be key as they will contain purchases by the bank last Friday, Dec. 2, when it held its monthly policy meeting.

Market participants suspect the stabilization in European bond markets since the meeting has been largely due to even more purchases by the central bank, under pressure from policymakers to do more to prevent Europe’s debt crisis from spreading to Portugal, and more dangerously to much larger Spain, following earlier bailouts of Greece and

Ireland.

In total, the ECB has bought euro69 billion worth of government bonds since May following the bailout of Greece. Buying bonds supports their prices, taking pressure off the banks that hold them. It also lowers bond yields, which indicate the borrowing costs countries would face were they to go into the market for more credit. Though the pressures on Europe’s highly indebted countries has waned somewhat over the past few days, Europe’s debt difficulties remain. □



AIDS prevention : A students poses for a photograph while wearing a sperm costume inside a giant 25-meter long condom during an AIDS awareness event marking World AIDS Day in Budapest.

Research Finds Not All HIV Affects Immune System Same Way

New research explains why immune function actually improves in a small number of patients with drug-resistant HIV.

In those cases, the virus has mutations that protect it against some HIV drugs but also thwart its ability to kill immune cells, explained the researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

This is the first study to show that not all HIV is equally bad for the immune system, the authors noted.

“These findings suggest -- in contrast to how these patients have been treated in the past -- that changing treatments might not be needed

in order to help the immune system,” senior author and infectious disease researcher Dr. Andrew Badley, said in a Mayo news release.

The study is published in the Nov. 24 online edition of the journal PLoS Pathogens.

HIV causes AIDS by progressively killing CD4 T-cells that direct the immune system.

The loss of these cells makes patients susceptible to infections and cancers. Over time, HIV can develop mutations that make it resistant to drugs. But only a few of those mutations also halt HIV’s ability to kill immune cells, the researchers explained in the news release. □

Seattle Genetics to submit lymphoma drug to FDA

By Deena Beasley

LOS ANGELES — A pivotal trial of Seattle Genetics’ experimental cancer-targeting antibody for patients with Hodgkin’s lymphoma found that more than a third of them achieved complete remission of their cancer.

The company also said it now expects to submit the drug, brentuximab vedotin, to U.S. regulators in the first quarter of next year for patients with either Hodgkin’s lymphoma or anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) who have stopped responding to other therapies. The company had previously said a submission would occur in the first half of 2011.

“Our goal would be to submit in the first quarter, have an accelerated review and be on the market in 2011,” Seattle Genetics’ Chief Executive Clay Siegall told Reuters in a telephone interview.

The trial did not compare brentuximab vedotin with another drug, but the complete remission rate for similar patients tends to be in the single digits, he said. The company is developing the

lymphoma drug with Japan’s Takeda Pharmaceutical Co, which is discussing with European regulators a possible first-half 2011 submission.

Seattle Genetics had said in September that 75 percent of the trial’s 102 patients had remissions or tumor shrinkage of at least 50 percent. The trial involved patients who had stopped responding to standard treatments for the lymphatic cancer.

The full results -- presented on Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology in Orlando, Florida -- included some sort of tumor reduction in 94 percent of patients.

Brentuximab vedotin links a tumor-targeting antibody to a cancer-killing chemotherapy drug with the goal of limiting side effects. It is designed to home in on an antigen expressed in Hodgkin’s lymphoma, several types of T-cell lymphoma and other hematologic malignancies.

Patients in the trial responded to the drug for a median of 29 weeks, according to an independent review. Among patients achieving remission,

the median duration of response had not yet been reached at a median follow-up of around one year.

Seattle Genetics said serious side effects seen in the trial included neutropenia, or low levels of white blood cells, (20 percent of patients), peripheral sensory neuropathy (8 percent), low platelet count (8 percent) and anemia (6 percent).

Siegall estimated that there are close to 8,000 patients in the United States with relapsed or refractory Hodgkin’s lymphoma and ALCL.

Full results from a mid-stage trial of brentuximab vedotin in ALCL patients are scheduled for presentation at the hematology conference on Tuesday. Top-line results, reported by Seattle Genetics in October, showed that 86 percent of trial patients responded to the antibody drug. The company is also studying the drug as an initial treatment for Hodgkin’s lymphoma and as a maintenance therapy.

Leerink Swann has estimated 2015 sales of brentuximab vedotin at around \$302 million. □

Gene Therapy Corrected Rare Bleeding Disorder: Study

By Amanda Gardner

Using gene therapy, German researchers report that they managed to “correct” a malfunctioning gene responsible for Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, a rare but devastating childhood disorder that leads to prolonged bleeding from even minor hits or scrapes, and also leaves these children vulnerable to certain cancers and dangerous infections.

However, one of the 10 kids in the study developed acute T-cell leukemia, apparently as a result of the viral vector that was used to insert the healthy gene. The boy is currently on chemotherapy, the study authors noted.

“This is a very good first step, but it’s a little scary and we need to move to safer vectors,” said Dr. Mary Ellen Conley, director of the Program in Genetic Immunodeficiencies at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

“The study shows proof-of-principle that gene therapy with stem cells in a genetic disorder like this has strong potential,” added Paul Sanberg, a stem cell specialist who is director of the University of South Florida Center of Excellence for Aging and Brain Repair in Tampa.

Neither Conley nor Sanberg were involved in the study, which is scheduled to be presented Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology in Orlando, Fla.

According to Conley, children (mostly boys) with Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome (WAS) are born with an inherited genetic defect on the X chromosome that affects the number and size of platelets and makes the children remarkably susceptible to easy bleeding and infections, including different types of cancer.

Bone marrow transplants are the main treatment for the disorder which, if they succeed, basically cure the patient.

“They grow up, go to college and they cause problems,” said Conley. “But they’re not an easy group of patients to transplant.”

Even if a good match is found, transplant recipients can go on to have more problems with infections, such as graft-versus-host disease, in which the body basically rejects the foreign elements. □

Alaskan Wildfires Could Trigger 'Runaway Climate Change'

Severe Alaskan wildfires have released much more carbon than was stored by the region's forests over the past 10 years, researchers report today. They warned that the pattern could lead to a "runaway climate change scenario" where larger, more intense fires release more greenhouse gases that, in turn, lead to more warming.

The northern wildfires burn peatlands that consist of decaying plant litter, moss and organic matter in the soil, said Merritt Turetsky, an ecologist at the University of Guelph in Canada and lead author of a new study. Such fires have a huge impact given that the peatlands contain much of the world's soil carbon - about as much carbon as is found in the atmosphere or in the total of terrestrial biomass (plants and animals).

"These findings are worrisome, because about half the world's soil carbon is locked in northern permafrost and peatland soils," Turetsky explained.

"This is carbon that has accumulated in ecosystems a little bit at a time for thousands of years, but is being released very rapidly through increased burning." The fire-chasing researchers found that burned area has doubled in Alaska's interior over the last decade. They traveled to almost 200 forest and peatland burn sites so that they could measure how much biomass had gone up in smoke and flames, and also examined fire records dating back to the 1950s.

Climate change in Alaska has already led to coastlines crumbling under the combined factors of declining sea ice and warming oceans.

Adding fire to the mix means that the northern regions may increasingly contribute to global warming, even as they suffer from erosion and the threatened extinction of polar bears and other local species.

"[These changes include] longer snow-free seasons, changes in vegetation, loss

of ice and permafrost, and now fire, which is shifting these systems from a global carbon sink toward a carbon source," said Jennifer Harden, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist and co-author on the study.

More severe Alaskan wildfires can also raise health issues for humans and other animals, because fire emissions contain mercury and particulate matter that can cause respiratory problems.

"We are hoping people will recognize the seriousness of climate change for northern regions and people living in them," Turetsky said. "Wildfire is going to play a more and more important role in shaping the north."

Such findings have strong implications for countries currently meeting in Cancun, Mexico to hash out a new approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, Turetsky pointed out. The full study is detailed in the Dec. 5 issue of the journal Nature Geoscience. □

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More nations may pledge carbon limits at UN talks



Members of the group World Wildlife Fund stand around a map made of candles during an event to make a call for a strong deal to leaders joined at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. The slow-moving U.N. talks on combating global warming took a step forward with revised for a \$100-billion-a-year climate aid fund and other issues for debate by the world's environment ministers this week.

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

By ARTHUR MAX,
Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — More countries are expected this week to pledge specific actions to limit carbon emissions over the next decade, in what would be very good news for arduous negotiations on a climate-change agreement, host country Mexico said. As the talks began their second and final week Monday, delegates said the 193-nation conference was moving toward decisions on practical steps to help countries fight global warming, especially developing nations under severe threat from changing climate conditions. New negotiating documents put on the table over the weekend were generally well received, despite criticisms of

flaws and omissions.

"These texts cover all the elements for a balanced package, and that is good," said the European Union's climate commissioner, Connie Hedegaard. "We have a basis to work from this week." Newly arrived government environment ministers began applying political weight to the talks after a week of preparatory work by thousands of negotiators, and Hedegaard said a set of decisions was within reach if countries were ready to compromise. "We cannot leave Cancun empty-handed," she warned. The meeting hopes to restore credibility to the talks after the last summit in Copenhagen a year ago, which failed to agree on any binding measures to rein in emissions of global-

warming gases. A nonbinding political document, the Copenhagen Accord, outlined important compromises among key players, including the United States and China, but its adoption was blocked by a handful of dissident nations.

In subsequent months, however, 140 countries declared their endorsement of the accord, and 85 of them made specific pledges for reducing carbon emissions, or at least limiting their growth, by 2020.

Mexico's deputy foreign minister, Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo, said more countries had said in private consultations that they intended to add their pledges to the list of 85. Some countries that already have submitted pledges may take "additional measures," he said. He declined to name any country, but said they included both industrial and developing nations.

"There has been a clear message from some parties, and that would certainly be very good news," he told reporters Sunday.

On Monday, Bolivia complained that the integrity of the negotiations had been undermined by recent Wikileaks disclosures of confidential diplomatic messages indicating the United States was using economic aid to pressure countries on their climate-change policies.

Bolivia's delegation chief,

Pablo Solon, called the U.S. practice described in the leaks as "blackmail" meant to force unwilling countries to accept its positions.

"We are not sold to anyone. We are not bought. We are not scared," Solon told reporters. Bolivia led the group of mainly Latin American countries that blocked the adoption of the Copenhagen Accord. The U.S. has said publicly it would earmark climate aid funds to countries that signed on to the accord.

Hedegaard said the leaked documents were incomplete and presented an inaccurate picture of meetings as they were reported by U.S. diplomats to Washington. She described one document in which she was mentioned as a "one-sided and selective report on what that conversation was all about."

The Cancun talks seek to produce decisions on establishing a "green fund" to help poorer nations rein in greenhouse gases and to adapt their economies and infrastructure to a changing climate; an agreement making it easier for developing nations to obtain patented green technology from advanced nations; and pinning down more elements of a system for compensating developing countries for protecting their forests.

What will not be resolved at Cancun is the core dispute in the climate talks: fixing legally binding targets for

nations to reduce greenhouse gases emitted by industry, vehicles and agriculture.

The pledges in the Copenhagen Accord are purely voluntary, and are insufficient to meet the goal scientists have set to limit the average global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 Fahrenheit) above what it was before the industrial age began.

Gomez Robledo said the side issues of funding, technology and forestry "are almost ripe," and negotiators will work on disputed details over the next five days.

The conference president, Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa, told the delegations Sunday she had assigned teams of two ministers, one each from a wealthy and developing country, to focus on specific issues and give political guidance to the negotiators.

The most troublesome issue — and one that could still undermine even the limited ambition envisioned for Cancun — was whether industrial countries would agree to further emissions cuts as spelled out in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

Under Kyoto, 37 nations and the European Union agreed to cut greenhouse gases by a total of 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Those countries are on target to meet their obligations, but some of them have balked about accepting more mandatory cuts after 2012.

Japan caused an uproar last week when it flatly said it will refuse to go along, as long as all major emitting countries do not have similar obligations. The United States was assigned a reduction target, but it rejected the treaty. Developing countries, including China and India, were excluded from Kyoto's strictures. □

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F A V I

"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

Chávez gana elección regional y sufre traspíe en gran ciudad

CARACAS (Reuters) - El presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, se anotó el domingo un nuevo triunfo electoral al colocar a sus hombres en 8 de las 13 plazas en disputa en unas elecciones regionales rezagadas, mientras que sus adversarios lograron conservar una de las mayores ciudades del país.

Las elecciones tuvieron una alta abstención, que rondó el 50 por ciento, en medio de una emergencia por inundaciones en varios estados del país que han dejado unos 90.000 damnificados.

Como preveían varias encuestas, el "chavismo" ganó la gobernación de Guárico -una zona agrícola cuyo titular murió en septiembre en un accidente- y la oposición la alcaldía de Maracaibo, una de las ciudades más pobladas del país y centro petrolero y agrícola.

Eveling Trejo de Rosales, esposa del destacado rival político de Chávez Manuel

Bolivia:

Popularidad de Morales sube al 54%

LAPAZ (AP) - La popularidad del presidente boliviano Evo Morales alcanzó en noviembre el 54%, cinco puntos porcentuales más que en octubre, según una encuesta divulgada el lunes.

La redistribución de la renta petrolera a través de bonos para sectores pobres fue la principal razón citada por los consultados a favor del mandatario, señaló la encuesta de Ipsos Opinión y Mercado publicada en el diario La Razón.

También en noviembre, el nivel de desaprobación de Morales bajó cinco puntos y se situó en 40%. Las razones para la opinión contraria al mandatario fueron que maneja mal la economía y no gobierna para todos.

Morales comenzó su segunda presidencia en enero con el 70% de apoyo y en agosto cayó a 46%, su nivel más bajo hasta ahora. Realizada entre el 10 y 21 de noviembre, la encuesta abarcó las cuatro principales



Eveling Trejo de Rosales, candidata opositora a la alcaldía de Maracaibo y esposa del ex gobernador del Zulia Manuel Rosales, muestra su dedo entintado tras sufragar en Maracaibo. Dic 5, 2010. REUTERS/Isaac Urrutia

Rosales, derrotó al oficialista Partido Socialista Unido de

Venezuela (PSUV) en esa plaza. "Que no vaya a haber una celebración, porque no podemos estar celebrando a pesar de que haya sido electa alcaldesa de Maracaibo. No podemos estar celebrando cuando hay tanta gente pasando dificultades", afirmó Trejo.

Su esposo fue gobernador del Zulia, compitió con Chávez en las presidenciales del 2006 como candidato unitario de la oposición, y en el 2008 ganó la alcaldía de Maracaibo, pero un año después el mandatario le inició un juicio por presunta corrupción y el líder se fugó a

Perú, donde solicitó asilo.

Por su parte, el pequeño partido Patria Para Todos (PPT) se quedó con Amazonas, la otra gobernación que se disputaba, al resultar reelecto Liborio Guarulla para otros cuatro años. PPT se separó de Chávez este año.

Otras siete alcaldías quedaron en manos del PSUV y cuatro en las de sus adversarios en la contienda, que se realizó para llenar vacantes surgidas tras las elecciones regionales del 2008 por muerte del titular, abandono del cargo o fin del período.

Las elecciones del domingo fueron las segundas del año tras la votación de la Asamblea Nacional en septiembre, que dio al mandatario el 60 por ciento de los escaños en ese cuerpo.

El país realiza frecuentes elecciones y Chávez, desde que llegó al poder en 1999, ha logrado el respaldo de los votantes en gran parte de la docena de contiendas electorales que ha convocado. En las regionales del 2004 la oposición sólo obtuvo dos de las 23 gobernaciones, y en el 2008 cinco -en los estados más poblados del país- y la alcaldía metropolitana de Caracas. □



Imagen de archivo del presidente boliviano, Evo Morales, durante una conferencia en La Paz. REUTERS/David Mercado/ARCHIVO

ciudades del país, incluyó consultas a 1.031 personas y tuvo un margen de error de tres puntos porcentuales. Morales viajó el lunes a Japón para firmar acuerdos de cooperación. A su regreso, el jueves, visitará México, sede de la Conferencia sobre Cambio Climático. □

Presidente dice busca facilitar retorno de Zelaya a Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El presidente Porfirio Lobo informó que los poderes del Estado buscan una salida legal para el retorno seguro a Honduras del derrocado mandatario Manuel Zelaya, refugiado desde enero en República Dominicana.

"Aunque él (Zelaya) no quiere venir porque ya lo hubiese hecho, buscamos que su caso se resuelva lo más pronto posible", dijo el lunes el gobernante al canal 5 de televisión.

Informó que la situación "es analizada con muy buena voluntad" por los presidentes del Congreso, Juan Arnaldo Hernández, y de la Corte Suprema, Jorge Rivera, y el fiscal general, Luis Alberto Rubí. Zelaya fue derrocado en junio de 2009 y expulsado por los militares a Costa Rica por intentar convocar una Constituyente.

"Lo que pretendemos es que Zelaya vuelva al país sin la amenaza de ser arrestado para que

se defienda en libertad de los cargos que se le imputan... todos buscamos una salida sin que se viole la ley", señaló.

Lobo recordó que "si Zelaya hubiera querido, ya estaría en Honduras porque hace cuatro meses le ofrecí ir a traerlo a Santo Domingo y rechazó mi iniciativa".

Al asumir Lobo en enero, otorgó a Zelaya un salvoconducto para que se fuera a República Dominicana.

El gobernante derrocado ha dicho públicamente que no vuelve a Honduras porque existen tres órdenes de arresto en su contra. La fiscalía lo ha encausado por siete delitos, cuatro de carácter político y tres por corrupción.

Tras su expulsión, Zelaya regresó subrepticamente y se refugió por más de tres meses en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa. □



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